

Arab League drafts plan to end Iraq embargo

Government announces 40-day mourning period

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government Sunday declared a 40-day period of mourning following the passing away of King Hussein. A statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, and Jordan Television said: "In mourning His Majesty King Hussein, who passed away at noon Sunday Feb. 7, 1999, the Cabinet announces a mourning period of 40 days, during which Jordanian flags will be flown at half-mast. Furthermore, the Cabinet announces that all government departments and public institutions will be closed until Saturday, Feb. 13, 1999."

Jordan Times

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Nation mourns King Hussein

Abdullah proclaimed King



By Francesca Ciriaci

AMMAN — Jordan is in shock and grief over the loss of its King and father while leaders and peoples pay a universal tribute to a man of hope and the King of peace.

King Hussein died in hospital yesterday after a courageous and lengthy battle with cancer. Her Majesty Queen Noor and Royal family members were at his bedside when his heart stopped.

Jordanians were petrified when Jordan Television and Radio started broadcasting verses of the Holy Koran, shortly after 12:00 noon.

People spontaneously started lowering flags to half mast in many areas in the capital, long before the government announced the mourning.

Black banners were draped where only two weeks ago pictures of the King and Jordanian flags were saluting the Monarch's return home after six months of chemotherapy in the U.S.

Later in the evening, many flags in many other countries worldwide would also be ordered at half mast, in Palestine and in Israel, from Buckingham Palace to Capitol Hill.

At 12:20, Jordan Television officially announced that King Hussein had died: "With absolute faith in God and His will and in deep grief, the Council of Ministers announces to the dear Jordanian people and the Arab and Islamic nations and to the friends of the Kingdom everywhere the passing of the greatest of men, His Majesty King Hussein, of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan who God has chosen to be by His side."

"The King passed away at 11:43 a.m. on Sunday Feb. 7, 1999," read an announcer, hardly containing his tears and almost unable to face the camera.

"In making the announcement, the Council of Ministers prays to God to bless the King's soul."

The government immediately announced that "Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Hussein had assumed the Throne in line with paragraph one of Article 28 of the Constitution."

"The heir to the Throne has assumed his powers as of the moment King Hussein Ben

Talal passed away."

Shortly after the announcement, the new Monarch addressed the nation for the first time.

"Brothers and countrymen, sons of the one Jordanian family, kinsmen and clan, friends of King Hussein everywhere, Arabs and Muslims, with all the faith in God and accepting God's will and the patience of the believers and the faith of the patient, I mourn to you and the world at large the passing of His Majesty King Hussein Ben Talal who died today accepting God's will."

His eyes straight in the camera and his voice firm, King Abdullah said: "This is God's judgement and God's will."

"While I regard his passing as a great loss for the nation and the country, I beseech God Almighty to grant Hussein great mercy and Jordanians and the sons of the Arab and Islamic nations and all those who love him in the world, leaders and people, patience and solace."

Wearing a black suit and tie and flanked by the pictures of his father and Queen Noor, King Abdullah said "Hussein's soul will remain with us and among us in our hearts and souls and we shall preserve Hussein's legacy in building and in giving, with all loyalty and sincerity, for the sake of Jordan, the dearest and the strongest, with all the strength and faith, in one rank, one heart, and one family."

The last words of his brief address were: "Hussein was a father, a brother to everyone just as he was my father. Today, you are my brothers and sisters and you are my consolation and hope after God. May God bestow upon you consolation."

The crowd of hundreds who had been holding a vigil for days at the main gate of Al Hussein Medical Centre in order to be close to their leader in his last moments, soon swelled into thousands.

Policemen could hardly contain all those who were converging in tears from across the country at the hospital, in the heavy rain and freezing cold.

At 3:00 p.m., King Abdullah took the oath before a session of both Houses of Parliament in the presence of the

government.

Upon arriving at Parliament, he was welcomed by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad Ben Talal, Prince Hassan Ben Talal, Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, Prince Ali Ben Nayef, Prince Faisal Ben Hussein, Prince Ali Ben Hussein, Prince Hamzah Ben Hussein, Prince Hashem Ben Hussein, Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, Prince Rashid Ben Hassan and Prince Zeid Ben Shaker.

Also present to welcome the King were Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh, Senate President Zeid Rifai, Lower House Speaker Abdul Hadi Majali, Judicial Council head Taher Hikmat, Royal Court Chief Jawad Anani, the King's advisors, the commanders of the Jordan Armed Forces, the Public Security Department, the General Intelligence Department, and other high ranking officials.

Before reaching the podium, King Abdullah stood at attention for a few, long seconds in front of a life-size portrait of King Hussein in his white full-dress uniform.

The highly emotional moment, symbolising the continuity of the Hashemite leadership, was marked by an ovation of all representatives of Jordan's institutions gathered under the dome of Parliament.

Upon reaching the podium, King Abdullah slightly bowed his head before the chamber in sign of respect, and placed his right hand on the Holy Koran, reciting: "I swear by God Almighty that I will uphold the Constitution and remain faithful to the nation."

In a statement at the outset of the session, Senate President Zeid Rifai said: "I request that you all stand and recite verses of the Holy Koran for the soul of King Hussein, the most courageous man and father of the nation and the symbol of the nation."

Rifai's voice broke when he added "May God bless his soul."

Many of those present could not hold back their tears.

After the brief swearing in ceremony, King Abdullah received the condolences of Cabinet members, parliamentarians, and dignitaries.

His uncles, Prince Mohammad and Prince Hassan, his brothers and cousins stood nearby.

King Abdullah shook hands with everyone in the long queue, exchanging a few words with most, while a world audience watched live footage of Jordan's institutions and Royal family standing united in the solemnity and grief of the moment.

Speaking to Jordan Television after a Cabinet meeting during which the ministers recited verses of the Holy Koran, Premier Tarawneh emphasised the need for solidarity among the Jordanian people in order to safeguard the "march" started by King Hussein.

"We have lost the most precious of men and the most honourable among them; and as sons and daughters of this homeland we pledge to protect Jordan and its great achievements realised under King Hussein over the past 47 years."

"The past years have witnessed solid construction and an integrated and united nation under the Hashemite leadership, and we have to resume work to prove our faithfulness to King Hussein as he has always been to all, never disappointing anyone throughout his life," the prime minister said.

"We pledge to King Hussein to stand behind His Majesty King Abdullah Ben Hussein and behind the Hashemite family as we forge ahead together towards achieving the nation's objectives."

In another statement to Jordan Television, Tarawneh said: "This day is a heavy and sad one for all Jordanians and Arabs."

"Through his courage and wise leadership, King Hussein set the example for all. He has left behind men who vow to follow in his footsteps and support King Abdullah as he had wanted us to do."

The government declared 40 days of mourning, during which the Kingdom's flags will be flown at half-mast.

"The government announces that all government departments and public institutions will be closed until Saturday morning Feb. 13, 1999," an official statement said.

Arab, world leaders to attend King Hussein's funeral

Regional countries order flags to fly at half-mast

By Caroline Faraj

AMMAN — Arab, Muslim and world leaders on Sunday paid tribute to King Hussein and many said they planned to attend his funeral today.

World leaders hailed the late King and described him as one of the greatest statesmen of the 20th century.

Kings, presidents, princes and officials from all over the world began to head to Jordan on Sunday in order to pay their respects to the King.

Among those who will participate in the funeral are U.S. President Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The president will head a large U.S. delegation that includes former presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter and George Bush, and congressmen.

From the Arab World President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Sultan Qaboos of Oman, President Ali Abdullah Saleh of Yemen, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifeh of Bahrain, President Omar Hassan Al Bashir of Sudan, Crown Prince Sa'd Al Abdullah Al Sabah of Kuwait, Taha Moheiddin Ma'arouf, vice president of Iraq, and other senior

officials are also to attend the funeral, as well as Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid.

U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan and his wife will also participate in the funeral.

A number of European countries will be represented by their heads of state or government. French President Jacques Chirac will attend, accompanied by his wife Bernadette, as well as German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok, and Turkish President Suleyman Demirel.

Austria is sending its president, Thomas Klestil, Ireland its president, Mary McAleese, and Switzerland its vice president, Adolf Ogi.

Russian diplomats said that Russian President Boris Yeltsin might head a delegation including Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov, while the office of the Czech president said Vaclav Havel hoped to attend the funeral.

The royalty of Europe will also be represented. The whole of the immediate Spanish royal family will be present, led by King Juan Carlos and his wife Sofia, who will be accompanied by Crown

Prince Felipe.

The British royal family will be represented by Prince Charles, Prince of Wales. Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands will attend as well as King Albert and Queen Paola of Belgium.

South Africa is sending Interior Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

The Japanese foreign ministry said Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, accompanied by Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako, will also attend the funeral.

Israeli President Ezer Weizman will lead his country's delegation, comprising Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

and several senior government and party officials.

The government on Sunday announced a 40-day period of mourning for the King. All government departments, business and banks will be closed as of today until Saturday morning.

Several Arab states, including Egypt, Syria, Libya, Bahrain, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Lebanon, and the Palestinian National Authority on Sunday declared periods of official mourning, while Israel said its flags would fly at half-mast until the funeral in Amman on Monday is

over.

King Hussein who ruled Jordan for over 46 years, will be buried today, after noon, in the Royal Palace cemetery next to the graves of his grandfather, King Abdullah, and his father King Talal. King Hussein, who was the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, will be accorded a complete military funeral service, including a 15-gun salute.

The concerned officials were finalising protocol procedures last night for the world leaders attending the funeral, sources said.

The King's body will be wrapped in a white

shroud and all rings and other objects removed. No coffin is used for the burial itself.

Mirroring the Kingdom's forlorn mood as funeral preparations moved to the fore, black flags fluttered from the few taxicabs plying the streets, Koranic verses of mourning were broadcast through mosques loudspeakers, and citizens wept on the sidewalks.

Shopkeepers in central Amman were already closing up within an hour of the official announcement of the King's death. Some put up black flags as a mark of grief (see related stories on page 16).

Jordanians grieve the loss of their King

By Ahmad Khatib

AMMAN — A near state of hysteria gripped the nation when men, women and children rushed in disbelief to an army-run hospital where His Majesty King Hussein died on Sunday after a 47-year reign.

Thousands of citizens, some slapping their faces in a traditional sign of grief and others wiping streams of tears from their eyes, began praying for the King after news about his death filtered out.

"May God have mercy on your soul" and "Al Hussein is God's beloved," they screamed, tears and rain streaking their shocked faces.

The anxious wait of the country's 4.2 million population was broken at midday Sunday, when sombre news presenters went on state television to announce that the King had died at 11:43 a.m.

"Oh God, what will we do without King Hussein," said a man before collapsing outside the hospital gate.

"Long live Al Hussein" shouted others, who did not want to believe that he had passed away.

Many had defied heavy rainfall, dense fog and cold to hold vigil late into the night outside the state-

of-the-art Al Hussein Medical Centre since Friday, when the King was rushed back home from a U.S. hospital after losing his seven-month battle with cancer.

They had high hopes they could get a last glimpse of their King. But his body was taken to his nearby Bab Al Salam Palace through a back gate.

Anxious policemen struggled to control the crowd.

Government offices were ordered closed until Saturday, and flags flew at half-mast over official buildings as Jordanians, most of whom have known no other leader, mourned the 63-year-old King Hussein.

In downtown Amman, scores of people carried black flags and posters of the King, the region's longest-serving ruler.

"We sacrifice our blood and our soul for you King Hussein," chanted a group of youngsters near the main Al Hussein Mosque in downtown Amman.

Some of them wiped their tears with their red-and-white kuffiyas.

Hundreds of school students at the Islamic College — where King Hussein attended high school — shouted "Allahu Akbar" (God is Great)

after learning he had succumbed to death.

Several women clad in long bedouin robes recited traditional ballads of mourning.

"Losing Al Hussein is like losing my eyes," said Salem Saadi, a 23-year-old university student.

Cars, many flying strips of black cloth and dark flags, jammed the highway leading to the hospital. Many shop owners around country closed down to go to mosques to pray for King Hussein, who has turned their country from a tiny underdeveloped nation into a modern stable Kingdom.

The government announced 40 days of mourning while the Royal Court proclaimed a three-month period of mourning. The official announcement of King Hussein's death was preceded by solemn readings from the Holy Koran.

"We lost our King and father. However, we have not lost our country, for which he fought long and hard," said a tribal leader sipping a cup of sweet tea in a small restaurant. "We should work hard to protect the King's legacy and all what he did for us over the past 47 years."



Two Jordanian girls mourn the death of King Hussein outside the King Hussein Medical Center in Amman, where the Monarch died after a seven-month battle with cancer on Sunday. The death of the 63-year-old Monarch ended a tumultuous half-century reign and plunged his pivotal Middle Eastern country into mourning and uncertainty (AFP photo)

Palestinians mourn King, champion of their cause

By Mohammad Ben Hussein

BAQA'A CAMP — Palestinians living in the Baqa'a refugee camp on Sunday mourned the death of His Majesty King Hussein, but remained confident his successor would continue to champion their cause.

The camp's muddy streets were unusually empty, and black flags flew above almost every house in the 120,000-strong camp, whose residents fled their homes during the 1948 and 1967 Arab-Israeli wars.

Many wept, and some women slapped their faces with grief after news of the death of the 63-year-old Monarch gradually filtered through to crowds who had been following developments of the King's seven-month battle with cancer.

Only the sound of rain drops hitting the pavement could be heard in the camp's usually crowded and noisy market. Shop owners closed their doors, unable to trade any more after losing their partner of 46 years.

"I cannot meet anybody.

We lost the King, the father of all Jordanians, there is nothing else to lose," said Abu Mazen, while locking his shop door.

"I will go and cry with my family," added Abu Mazen, his throaty voice choked with sadness and his face streaming with tears and rain.

Others could barely tolerate the tragic news about their Monarch. Old and young, male and female, burst into tears in the middle of the street.

"He is irreplaceable," cried an old woman, sloshing through the muddy street while holding her grand daughter in her arms.

"He is the father of all Jordanians," said Khalid Amr, a school teacher.

Several in the downtown camp, said Jordan was the only country which had given Palestinians citizenship and shelter after they fled their homes during the 1948 and 1967 wars.

Palestinians are entitled to Jordanian passports and enjoy similar privileges as other Jordanians including

the right to vote.

"The Palestinians could never find a better place than Jordan," said Nabil Hirsh, a doctor whose clinic sits near the entrance of the camp. "Palestinians and Jordanians are one people."

Loud speakers playing recitations of the Holy Koran could be heard from the camp's streets.

"King Hussein was able to turn Jordan's ethnic diversity — Jordanians, Palestinians, Circassians, Armenians and Chechens — into one united country," said Hirsh.

"We can never deny the King's magnanimity towards us, he was the best host to the Palestinian people," said Shaker Derabani, a nurse.

The country's new King, His Majesty King Abdullah, the eldest son of King Hussein, is married to a Palestinian, Her Royal Highness Princess Rania Abdullah, who hails from Tulkarim in the West Bank, leading many to regard him as a potential champion of their cause.

"His wife will voice Palestinians' concerns and problems," said Hirsh, whose eyes never moved from the television.

Camp leaders believe the new King will follow his father's path his father carved for Jordan and will never walk alone.

"I believe King Hussein who chose this posting as a result of a deep respect for the late King Hussein and out of sincere appreciation for Jordanian people, I have to say that I feel the death of the great King, a great man, the champion of peace, as a personal loss and I respectfully bow in front of his dear memory. I am confident that His Majesty King Abdullah, the Royal family and the Jordanian people will... preserve his memory by continuing [along] his path, his generous ideas and achieving the great goals His Majesty King Hussein followed."

The European Commission expressed "heartfelt and profound regret" at the King's passing.

"He has been an exceptional leader and an ever shining light for peace in his troubled region," the commission said. "Even as he struggled with the terrible illness that affected him, his first thoughts were for the future of his beloved country and people. For his personal commitment, his vision and his contribution to the peace process, King Hussein will always be remembered and will remain in history as a major architect of peace in the Middle East. We in the European Union, and all those who work for peace and the improvement of the human condition, will find inspiration and sustenance in his example. The work will and must go on, the poorer for this loss, but the greater for his incomparable legacy. Our thoughts at this sad time are with His Majesty King Abdullah, the Hashemite

Family and the Jordanian people."

Ambassadors lament loss of King Hussein

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Diplomatic missions in Jordan yesterday offered moving condolences over the death of His Majesty King Hussein. Romanians Ambassador Vasile Sofineti in a written statement said: "As a diplomat who chose this posting as a result of a deep respect for the late King Hussein and out of sincere appreciation for Jordanian people, I have to say that I feel the death of the great King, a great man, the champion of peace, as a personal loss and I respectfully bow in front of his dear memory. I am confident that His Majesty King Abdullah, the Royal family and the Jordanian people will... preserve his memory by continuing [along] his path, his generous ideas and achieving the great goals His Majesty King Hussein followed."

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Family and the Jordanian people."

William Burns, United States ambassador to Jordan, said that Americans express to all Jordanians their "deepest condolences on their loss of His Majesty King Hussein Ben Talal."

"President Clinton spoke from his heart when he said of His Majesty that he was 'a close friend, a wonderful human being and a champion of peace,'" Burns wrote.

His words are echoed by all those who were privileged to have known His Majesty. King Hussein's life was marked by courage in the face of adversity, tireless efforts in the cause of peace and selfless dedication to the people of Jordan. I join the people of Jordan and millions of others the world over in mourning the death of His Majesty King Hussein Ben Talal, a great man who touched us deeply with his courage and decency."

The Turkish govern-

ment announced that all flags in Turkey would be flown at half mast as of 12:00 noon yesterday and all day today, in mourning the death of King Hussein.

The Chilean embassy also expressed the Chilean government's heart-felt condolences to King Abdullah Ben Hussein and his family, as well as to the Jordanian people over the death of King Hussein.

An embassy statement said: "King Hussein has wisely and intelligently led his country for more than 40 years... His wisdom has won him the respect of the international community. The embassy wishes His Majesty King Abdullah every success in leading his country towards further stability and development."

"We are confident that, with the support of his people, King Abdullah will pursue efforts to establish a just and lasting peace in the region."

PRAYER TIMES

05:02 Fajr
06:21 Sunrise/Duha
11:50 Dhuhr
14:52 Asr
17:19 Maghreb
18:37 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
4632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 4622366
Anglican Church Tel.
4624853/4624811
St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox
Church Tel. 4771751
Amman International Church
Tel. 5865897
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 5688404
The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 5811295
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter
Day Saints Tel. 4654932
St. John the Baptist at De la
Salle College Tel. 5661757
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
4637440
Greek Orthodox Church Tel.
4646138
Church of Presentation, Sweifeh
Tel. 5920146
The United Catholic Church
Tel. 4624757
The English-Language Catholic
Parish Tel. 4614190

Evangelical Free Church Tel.
4892679
The Baptist Church Tel.
4628052
The Armenian Catholic Church
4771331
The Armenian Orthodox
Church Tel. 4775261

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

It will be rainy, skies partly cloudy, and winds westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, skies will be partly cloudy, winds northerly moderate, and seas calm.

Min/Max temp.
Amman.....05/12
Aqaba.....12/19
Deserts.....04/14
Jordan Valley.....10/18

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 10 Aqaba 17 Humidity
readings: Amman 95 per cent,
Aqaba 90 per cent.

Following are the temperatures

expected today in the following areas:
Ajloun.....02/09
Jerash.....07/14
Um Qays.....04/14
Madaba.....03/11
Petra.....03/13
Dead Sea.....09/19

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mukhlis Mazahreh.....5150312
Dr. Wissam Hazyin.....4748563
Dr. Fakhr Tayeh.....4915880
Dr. Hatim Hannoun.....5154984

AMMAN:
Firas Pharmacy.....5661912
Al Salam Pharmacy.....4636730
Mayadah Pharmacy.....5537004
Rakn Al Dawa Pharmacy.....5536169

IRBID:
Dr. Lutfi Shalabi.....(02)241789
Fou'ad Pharmacy.....(02)275360

ZARQA:
Dr. Salah Saffarini.....(09)987565
Palestine Pharmacy.....(09)983562

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre.....4637111
Civil Defence Department.....5661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue.....4630341
Civil Defence Emergency.....199
Rescue Police.....192, 4621111, 4637777
Fire Brigade.....4617101
Blood Bank.....4775121
Highway Police.....5343402
Traffic Police.....4896390
Public Security Dept.....4630321
Hotel Complaints.....5605800
Price Complaints.....5661176
Water & Sewerage Complaints.....4897467
Amman Municipality Complaints.....4781111
Telephone Information (directory assistance).....121
Overseas Calls.....0132
Central Amman Telephone Repairs.....4623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs.....5661101
Jordan Television.....4773111
Radio Jordan.....4774111
Water Authority.....5680100
J. Electricity Authority.....5815615
Electric Power Co.....4636381
RJ Flight Information.....44-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport.....44-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery.....5921199
The Islamic, Abdali.....5661317
Hussein Medical Centre.....5856856
Luzma.....4630195
Khafid Maternity.....4642816
Akileh Maternity.....4642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity.....4642362
Malhas, J. Amman.....4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani.....5607071
Shmeisani Hospital.....5607431
Jordan Hospital.....5607550
University Hospital.....5333444
Al-Musaher Hospital.....5667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdali.....5664164/6
Al-Bashir, Al-Muhajreen.....4771101/3
Al-Bashir.....4775111/26
Army, Marka.....4891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital.....5157100
Amal Hospital.....5607155
Al Amal Cancer Centre.....5353000

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital.....(02)275555

Roman Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital
(02)7101372, (02)7103101
Rosary Sisters Hospital
(02)7102831, (02)7102011
Speciality Hospital.....(02)7103100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)201411

FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 4453200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 44 (52700). Information on Royal Wings flights can be supplied on phone 4875201-5

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
07:45Sanaa (RJ)
08:35Jeddah (RJ)
08:50Damascus (RJ)
08:50Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

09:40Beirut (RJ)
13:55New Delhi (RJ)
16:20Cairo (RJ)
16:25London (RJ)
16:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:05Kuwait (RJ)
18:35Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
20:00Bangkok, Doha (RJ)
23:15Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)
23:35Paris (add) (RJ)
03:00Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

Other Flights

08:20Alexandria (BA)
09:30Cairo (MS)
10:00Khartoum (SD)
13:20Bahrain (GF)
14:45Doha (QR)
15:05Vienna (OS)
15:25Dubai, Abu Dhabi (EK)
17:50Istanbul (SD)
18:40Beirut (ME)
19:15Frankfurt (LH)
22:25Tel Aviv (LY)
01:25Amsterdam (KL)
01:25Athens (OA)

Royal Wings (RW)

08:50Aqaba (arriving at QAIA) (RW)
09:35 Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport) (RW)
16:00 Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport) (RW)
17:30 Gaza (arriving at QAIA) (RW)

23:05 Tel Aviv (arriving at QAIA) (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:30Beirut (RJ)
10:45Aqaba, Paris (add) (RJ)
11:00Shannon, Chicago (RJ)
11:45Frankfurt, London (RJ)
12:05Kuwait (RJ)
12:30Cairo (RJ)
20:15Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:45Abu Dhabi, Tehran (RJ)
21:00Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)
21:15Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
21:20Damascus (RJ)
22:45Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights

06:00Istanbul (TK)
07:25Paris (AF)
09:05London (BA)
10:30Cairo (MS)
11:05Istanbul (SD)
14:10Bahrain (GF)
15:30Vienna (OS)
15:35Doha (QR)
16:30Dubai (EK)
18:50Khartoum (SD)
20:00Beirut (ME)
23:10Tel Aviv (LY)
02:25Amsterdam (KL)
02:45Athens (OA)

Royal Wings (RW)

08:30 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)
13:30 Gaza (from Marka Airport) (RW)
20:30Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)
21:00Tel Aviv (from QAIA) (RW)

Home N
Abdullah

Prince H

Arab diplomat
sympathy with

AMMAN, Petra — Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa, who arrived in Amman yesterday to pay tribute to the late King Hussein, said the King was a "great man" and a "champion of peace".

Moussa, who is also the head of the Arab League, said he was deeply moved by the King's death and the grief of the Jordanian people. He expressed his condolences to the Royal family and the Jordanian people.

The Lebanese Ambassador to Jordan, William Habib, also expressed his condolences to the Jordanian people, government, and particularly to Her Majesty Queen Supa and members of the Royal family.

King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, Jordan's fourth Hashemite King

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, a career army officer who took over as King of Jordan after his father, King Hussein, passed away on Sunday, has for years followed the footsteps of the late Monarch who turned the country into a modern and stable nation.

"I swear by God Almighty that I will uphold the Constitution and remain faithful to the nation," he said as he took the oath before an emergency session of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Sunday afternoon.

The King, who turned 37 last week, was appointed Regent a day earlier, after the government declared King Hussein incapacitated following his seven-month battle with cancer.

King Abdullah, who appeared on state television to announce the death of his father, called for national unity and promised to "preserve Hussein's full legacy by building a strong Jordan."

The United States, Britain, France, Israel, Egypt, Palestine, Sudan, Syria, and other key Arab, Gulf Arab and Western states have thrown their full weight behind King Abdullah, who spent most of his adult life in the military — and in the last five years as commander of the army's elite Special Forces.

King Abdullah marched smartly into the affairs of state on Jan. 25 after the late Monarch designated him as heir and relieved his brother, HRH Prince Hassan, from his 34-year service as Crown Prince.

In almost two weeks, he presided over a Cabinet meeting, met with scores of international and Arab leaders who visited Jordan to congratulate him on his appointment as Crown Prince and shook hands with more than 10,000 Jordanian well-wishers from all walks of life.

Foreign guests included U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who revised her Middle East trip itinerary last week to reaffirm U.S. support for key ally Jordan, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan Abdul Aziz and Seif Islami Qadhafi, son of the Libyan leader.

His message to all of them and to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who telephoned to congratulate him, was that he will continue to carry out his father's policies of moderation that

enabled the country to survive many dangerous challenges over the past five decades.

And in his first public interviews as designated heir, he pledged to continue Jordan's "traditional policy" on the Middle East peace process and on Iraq and to push ahead with democratic reforms.

"I am an extension of His Majesty's outlook and His Majesty's beliefs," the New York Times quoted him as saying.

However, he ruled out an imminent "rehabilitation of the Iraqi regime" and hinted that Iran would continue to be perceived as a threat to the security of Gulf states until the liberalising forces of President Mohammad Khatami won over radical elements.

Turning to the domestic scene, King Abdullah told the London-based Al Hayat Arabic daily that there would be more support "to the process of democratic transformation, political pluralism, freedom of expression and a boost to civil institutions."

"I have directives (along these lines) from His Majesty King Hussein and I will work to carry through his advice."

Officials and ordinary Jordanians had hoped for a longer transition for Prince Abdullah, said by a relative to "have developed excellent knowledge of many economic and political problems facing Jordan from being close to his father and from his work with the army and the country's intricate security portfolio."

However, many officials and several relatives have dismissed foreign media reports that have expressed fears over Jordan's stability under King Abdullah. And one U.S. official described the new monarch as a "chip off the old block."

They believe that King Hussein, who ruled Jordan for 47 years, had helped develop a civil society and a set of strong institutions which will provide a firm base for the future.

"King Hussein became King at the age of 17 when the country had no state insti-



tutions, no economic base, the British controlled the army, the whole region was passing through turbulence and coups and assassinations were the name of the game," said one senior government official.

"King Abdullah will build on 47 years of work by King Hussein, which is an outstanding capital for him to use. He comes to office during much better times. Jordan has institutions, a professional army and a respectful standing, both regionally and internationally."

Still, the challenges that lie ahead for Jordan, stuck between powerful neighbors Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Israel, may be as trying as those King Hussein endured during his 47-year rule.

While King Abdullah's views and style of leadership are still untried, many Jordanians say he appears to be a unifying factor for the Royal Hashemite family and is said to enjoy warm ties with Prince Hassan, who is expected to lend him support.

Gulf crisis.

Associates say King Abdullah, extremely concerned with the country's snail-paced economic development, poverty, unemployment and corruption, hopes to see resource-poor Jordan ready to stand on its own feet when the flood of foreign aid dwindles.

King Abdullah, promoted to the rank of major general in the army in 1998, is the King's eldest son from his second wife, HRH Princess Muna.

Born in Amman on January 30, 1962, King Abdullah started his education at the Islamic Educational College, left for England in 1966 and entered St. Edmund's School in Surrey then later attended Deerfield Academy in the United States, where he completed his high school education.

He joined Oxford University for a year, graduating in 1984 in special studies in international politics and world affairs.

On returning home in 1984, the then first lieutenant served as Platoon Commander and Company 2nd-in-command in the 40th Armoured Brigade.

His military service was interrupted three times to attend the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., where he was in residence as mid-career fellow attending the All Arms Tactics course at the British School of Infantry, and the Command and Staff College, Camberley, in the United Kingdom.

King Abdullah enjoys car racing, as did his father, as well as water sports and collecting ancient weapons and armaments.

He is president of the National Football Federation, honorary president of the International Tourism Golden Rudder Society and heads the National Committee for Tourist and Archaeological Films Production in Jordan.

On June 10, 1993, he married to Princess Rania Abdullah. The couple have one son, His Royal Highness Prince Al Hussein, born June 28, 1994, and one daughter, Her Royal Highness Princess Iman, born September 27, 1996.

Princess Rania, whose family hails from the West Bank town of Tulkerem, was

born on August 31, 1970 in Kuwait, where her family, like many Palestinians, had moved to seek a better life. Her father, Faisal Yassin, is a doctor.

Many of her family members live in Tulkerem.

After the Gulf War in 1991, the Yassin family, along with thousands of Jordanians and Palestinians, were forced to leave Kuwait after the Iraqi occupation of the emirate.

Princess Rania completed her secondary schooling in Kuwait, and went on to study management at the American University of Cairo, where she obtained her degree in 1991.

She was introduced to Prince Abdullah by mutual acquaintances in Amman, according to a close friend.

Princess Rania's Palestinian origins are regarded as a plus for the new King Abdullah, in a country where a majority of the 4.2 million citizens are believed to be of Palestinian origin.

Since her marriage she has involved herself in various activities to benefit the underprivileged. She chairs the Jordan River Foundation, which aims to promote income-generation and the empowerment of women through handicraft enterprises.

She has also established a help system for battered and abused children and is a vocal supporter of children's rights. Like many women in the Royal family, she is known to tackle issues that are often taboo in Jordanian society.

"She is a very intelligent young woman, kind and quite unaffected," by the trappings of real life, AFP quoted a foreign diplomat as saying.

She is also keen on sport, and chairs the Jordanian Water Sports Federation.

"She is very close to people, and has a good understanding of their problems. She is warm, likes challenges, and is tremendously knowledgeable," one of her colleagues at the Jordan River Foundation told AFP.

On January 19, when King Hussein returned to Jordan after seven months of cancer treatment in the United States, Princess Rania was seen on television throughout the world wiping away her tears.

"They were tears of joy," said one of her close friends. "Like all of us, she thought the King had managed to beat his cancer."

Prince Hamzeh Ben Al Hussein, heir to the Hashemite Throne



By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — King Abdullah issued a Royal Decree on Sunday designating his half-brother, HRH Prince Hamzah, as Crown Prince in line with the wishes of His Majesty King Hussein, who died early yesterday.

Prince Hamzah, who turns 19 on March 29 and is the eldest of King Hussein's four children from his marriage to Her Majesty Queen Noor, was chosen as heir to the Throne by the Royal family during a private meeting chaired by King Abdullah hours after he was sworn in as Jordan's new King before Parliament.

"In implementation of the late King Hussein's desire, members of the Royal Hashemite Family met under the chairmanship of King Abdullah and gave their blessing to the implementation of the Royal desire to appoint HRH Prince Hamzah Ben Hussein as Crown Prince of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan," an official announcement said.

Accordingly, King Abdullah issued the first executive order since he succeeded his father who lost a seven-month-old battle with cancer.

"We, Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and in accordance with paragraph (a) of Article 28 of the Constitution, have issued our Royal Decree choosing our brother HRH Prince Hamzah Ben Al Hussein as Crown Prince, to be granted all rights and privileges entailed herewith," said the decree, carried by state-run media.

Prince Hamzah spent most of the last seven months at King Hussein's bedside while he was being treated for lymphatic cancer at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

He was accorded public praise in a letter written by King Hussein on Jan. 25 when he designated his eldest son HRH Prince Abdullah as Crown Prince and relieved his brother, Prince Hassan, from his duties as heir for 34 years.

Since 1965, the Constitution has allowed the Monarch to appoint brothers as well as sons as heir to the Throne.

King Abdullah's only son, Hussein, is four years old.

Prince Hamzah, who is enrolled at Britain's Sandhurst Military Academy just last month, returned to Jordan to stay with his ailing father.

He was seen Sunday mingling with crowds who held a vigil outside the hospital where King Hussein lay dying.

Officials and relatives say he was nudged into the spotlight by his father — just as the King was himself groomed for power by his grandfather, the late King Abdullah.

The young Prince had increasingly accompanied the Monarch to his meetings with foreign and local leaders.

"His Majesty King Hussein, God bless his soul, always saw Hamzah as an extension of himself and his beliefs," said one official.

And Prince Hamzah, like his father, studied at the private British boarding school, Harrow, before following in the late King's footsteps to attend Sandhurst.

In his few public appearances over the last few years, he stunned audiences by speaking Arabic with the same accent and eloquence of King Hussein.

Relatives say he remains untried as he has been given no real chance to show his political convictions.

However, in one rare occasion, he exchanged views via public e-

mail with a leading critic of Jordan's 1994 peace treaty with Israel. The then 16-year-old prince vehemently defended the treaty that ended a 46-year state of war with the Jewish state.

King Hussein himself drew a parallel with Prince Hamzah in an open letter in September 1997, when the Prince marked his 18th birthday according to the Muslim calendar.

"I recall that God's will decreed that I should take over Constitutional powers in the service of the nation when I was your age today," King Hussein wrote.

"I pray to the Almighty that you remain an Arab, Muslim Hashemite and the delight of your father's eye."

And in his Jan. 25 letter, King Hussein praised Prince Hamzah, saying he had been "touched by his devotion to his country, his integrity and magnanimity" as he stayed at his sickbed.

"Hamzah, may God give him long life, has been envied since childhood because he was close to me, and because he wanted to know about all matters, large and small, and all details of the history of the family," said the King in a 14-page letter.

"He wanted to know about the

struggle of his brothers and of his countrymen..."

"He stayed beside me (at Mayo Clinic), not moving unless I forced him from time to time to carry out some duty on occasions that did not exceed the fingers on one hand. That is how Hamzah Ben Al Hussein spent his holidays between studies at Harrow and his admission to Sandhurst, after my insistence."

Prince Hamzah's early schooling in Amman was at the International Baccalaureate School.

He also attended various military training courses on paratrooping wings, counter terrorism, special forces and standard infantry and is Jordan Armed Forces sniper qualified.

Prince Hamzah's interests include fencing, scuba diving, shooting, judo, fishing, skiing, water sports and flying.

He also won numerous religious prizes, including the "Dome of the Rock" Award by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in 1990 and a history prize from Harrow. Prince Hamzah has been decorated with the Al Hussein Gold Medal for Achievement and Wissam Al Khawkab Al Urduni.

Arab diplomats express sympathy with Jordanians

AMMAN (Petra) — Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid expressed deep sorrow and sadness over the passing of King Hussein and recalled the King's pan-Arab stands.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency (Petra) in Cairo, Abdul Meguid voiced hope that the Jordanian leadership and people will follow, with resolve and determination, in the footsteps of King Hussein, who worked for the common good of the Jordanian people and the Arab Nation.

The Lebanese Ambassador to Jordan William Habib voiced deep regret over the passing of King Hussein, and expressed his heartfelt condolences to the Jordanian people, government, and particularly to Her Majesty Queen Noor and members of the Royal family.

Habib said the Lebanese people share with the Jordanian people their deep grief and sorrow over King Hussein's death. He said King Hussein won the appreciation of the Lebanese people through his wisdom, courage and respect. The Monarch was a tolerant and open-minded leader, he said, adding that the Lebanese people have full confidence in him.

"We have full confidence that the King's son, His Majesty King Abdullah, will shoulder his responsibility and will follow in the footsteps of his father," Habib said.

Qatari Ambassador to Jordan Fahed Ben Jassem Al Thani mourned the death of His Majesty King Hussein, as a great leader, and expressed deep regret and

(Continued on page 14)

Officials offer condolences, declare allegiance to Throne

AMMAN (Petra) — The government and the Parliament yesterday mourned the passing of King Hussein, and pledged allegiance to his heir, His Majesty King Abdullah.

In a cable sent to King Abdullah on Sunday, Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh pledged the government's allegiance to the Hashemite Throne.

"Overwhelmed with great pride and honour, the Council of Ministers expresses its allegiance and loyalty to Your Majesty," said Tarawneh.

"We submit to you our truthful and sincere belief in your capability to assume the leadership of the Kingdom, as chosen by the late King Hussein Ben Talal, who enjoyed wisdom and insight," said the prime minister.

"In this historic moment the members of the Council of Ministers express their

pride in your leadership and the country's institutions founded by the Hashemite family," added the prime minister.

In his cable, Tarawneh said: "The government will not spare any effort in shouldering its responsibilities and the trust invested in it, in accordance with your directives and in line with the provisions of the Constitution."

In a statement issued yesterday, President of the Upper House of Parliament Zaid Rifai said King Hussein's efforts for Jordan, and the progress and prosperity Jordan has achieved under his leadership, are a testament to the great sacrifices the King has made for Jordan and for Arab and Islamic causes.

Rifai said: "Our only consolation is that his son, another Hashemite leader,

(Continued on page 14)

Former officials pay tribute to King Hussein

By Dima Hamdan

AMMAN — Former cabinet ministers, prominent politicians and close friends of His Majesty King Hussein Sunday paid tribute to the Monarch's 47-year reign, hailing him not just as a King of hearts but "the King of Kings."

They also said they were confident his successor, King Abdullah, who says he has inherited many of King Hussein's redeeming qualities, will follow in his father's footsteps to keep a stable Jordan and build on the foundations left behind by the region's longest-serving ruler.

The King's eldest son HRH Crown Prince Abdullah, the Regent, a career army officer, was sworn in within hours as his successor and in a national television address, promised to follow his father's policies.

"Like any other Jordanian, I feel great sorrow and grief," said former Informa-

tion Minister Ibrahim Izzedin, a liberal politician. "But I am sure that the new King will assume his responsibilities with vigour. He's a product of great heritage and I have no doubt about the future."

Former Senate Speaker and Prime Minister Ahmad Lawzi, who mourned the King, said he was confident his legacy will continue.

"It is a great loss that cannot be measured in any way," he told the Jordan Times. "But we have two things that console us; the great message and heritage His Majesty left among us, and his son, King Abdullah," added Lawzi, an elder statesman who hails from a leading tribe and a family of politicians.

He served briefly as prime minister in 1970, when the army forced PLO fighters to leave the country at the height of Jordanian-Palestinian tension.

"The King has given us

everything, and it is only fair that we bid him a farewell that fits his great love and heritage," said Lawzi. "It is a great loss but we have strong faith that his son will best compensate us."

Daoud Hanania, a prominent heart surgeon whose friendship with the King dates back to 1952, said he was optimistic that Jordan will continue to thrive under the leadership of King Abdullah.

"Personally, I am very sad," he said. "I cannot estimate the loss, it is a loss to the Arab World, to the whole world and to the peace process."

However, he said "the ship of the state must sail on."

Hanania helped give a strong push to Jordan's medical advancement over the years after performing the region's first ever open heart surgery and heart transplant in the early 1980s. Together with a

group of local and Arab investors, he owns and runs the Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery, among the Middle East's most advanced cardiac hospitals.

"I know King Abdullah quite well, he is a decent man with decent character, extremely intelligent, and well versed in his situation as the eldest son of the King," added Hanania. "I hope that he will be surrounded by the best advisors and people with character and integrity."

Adnan Abu Odeh, a former Royal Court chief and long-time advisor to His Majesty King Hussein, paid a moving tribute to the sovereign.

"This is one of the saddest days in my life. I can only take consolation in the fact that I am so proud to have worked with such a leader, who was so popular, so loved, and so highly

(Continued on page 14)

Leaders of Arab World condole Jordan

Agencies

THE Arab Nation, along with the rest of the world, mourned King Hussein, who died on Sunday, hailing him as one of the 20th century's great leaders and peacemakers.

His death after nearly 50 years in power resounded through the Middle East and brought tributes from nations around the globe as their leaders prepared to attend his funeral on Monday afternoon.

Several Arab states declared periods of official mourning. In Abu Dhabi, a statement published by the official WAM news agency declared 40 days of mourning and said government offices would be closed for three days from Monday.

Egypt declares national mourning

In Egypt, flags flew at half-mast Sunday at the start of three days of mourning for King Hussein.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak paid tribute to King Hussein describing him as a "generous brother and dear friend" and announced he will join legions of world leaders at the Royal funeral ceremony in Amman on Monday.

"A three-day national mourning has been proclaimed across the Egyptian Republic. Flags will fly at half-mast on all public buildings and Egyptian embassies," said a presidential statement.

Mubarak, it said, "learned with pain and sadness the death of Hussein Ben Talal who fought to his last breath to guarantee the stability of his homeland."

King Hussein was described as a "generous brother and a dear friend... who put all his spirit and his life in the service of his country" and Mubarak praises "the principles of justice and peace" which guided his life.

Mubarak also alluded to the decades of tumultuous relations between the two countries. "President Hosni Mubarak would like to recall King Hussein's attachment to deepening relations between the Jordanian and Egyptian people and his brave actions for the sake of peace," said the statement.

PNA: A great loss for all Arabs

The Palestinian National Authority declared three days of mourning and said King Hussein's death was a great loss for all Arabs.

Palestinian officials said President Yasser Arafat would head a delegation to the King's funeral on Monday.

Official sources said Arafat called King Abdullah Sunday and wished him success in following in the footsteps of his departed father.

The official Palestinian news agency Wafa said Arafat presented the condolences of the Palestinian leadership and people to King Abdullah earlier in the day.

"President Arafat wished him success with his new responsi-

bilities in Jordan and in following the path of his father's work for Jordan and all Arab and Islamic nations," it said.

Palestinian Television broadcast readings from the Koran to mourn the Monarch.

"President Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian leadership and people received with pain and deep sorrow the news of the passing of His Majesty King Hussein," Arafat's office said in a statement.

"The Palestinian Authority declares a three-day mourning period for King Hussein," the statement said. The authority is in charge of self-rule areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

On hearing of the Monarch's death, some Palestinians mounted flags and posters of the King outside shops in Gaza City.

"The Palestinian Authority considers the death of King Hussein a big loss for Arabs, for Jordanians, for Palestinians and for the entire peace process," said Ahmad Abdul Rahman, general secretary of the authority.

"He played many roles in Middle East politics through the passing of half a century, therefore his absence will be a great loss for the entire Arab Nation," he told Reuters.

Hamas offers condolences

Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, spiritual leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, said he hoped Jordan would enjoy "stability and security now and forever."

King Hussein's death was "a great loss to the Arab and Muslim Nation," Yassin said.

Saudi crown prince arrives

Saudi Arabia announced on Sunday that Crown Prince Abdullah would attend the funeral of King Hussein and said the Kingdom was discussing further aid to Amman.

The Saudi prince, who arrived in Amman late Sunday, said he felt "like a brother who has lost a brother" and expressed support for King Abdullah.

"Jordan has always been dear to us, and now Jordan will be dearer and dearer," he told reporters.

Saudi Finance Minister Ibrahim Abdul Aziz Al Assaf said in remarks carried by SPA that Saudi Arabia was reassured about the situation in Jordan in all aspects, including the economic one.

Replying to a question from SPA on international efforts to support the Jordanian economy, Assaf said: "We are presently discussing with Jordanian officials the suitable method of supporting the Jordanian economy in continuation of what the Kingdom had given to Jordan."

"We are in touch with regional and international establishments to urge them to offer more support..." he added.

Kuwait expresses sorrow over King Hussein's death

Kuwait expressed sorrow over the death of King Hussein despite almost a decade of tense



Algerian President Liamine Zeroual is escorted by Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh upon his arrival at Queen Alia International Airport on Sunday (Reuters photo)

ties. The weekly cabinet meeting also voiced support for the country's new king, Abdullah, and wished him success.

The government "expresses deep sorrow and sadness over the death of His Majesty King Hussein... after a life full of work and giving in all fields," a statement said.

Jordan and Kuwait have been at odds since Iraq's 1990 invasion of the Gulf Arab state although ties have slowly moved towards normalisation in recent months.

After the 1991 Gulf War ended Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and Jordanians were not allowed to return to Kuwait or were made to leave.

Kuwait, accusing the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Amman of siding with Iraq during the crisis, also severed generous financial aid and political support to Jordan.

Foreign Minister Abdullah Al Khatib was due in Kuwait on Saturday on a ground-breaking trip to improve ties and reopen the Jordanian embassy for the first time since the Gulf crisis. The visit was postponed due to the King's illness.

The Kuwait cabinet statement also expressed confidence that Jordan would overcome "this critical period" and wished King Abdullah "continued success to achieve Jordan's interests, stability, advancement..."

Jordan's ties with Kuwait warmed slightly after Amman distanced itself from Iraq in 1995, hosting high-level Iraqi defectors and calling for change in Baghdad.

Although differences within Kuwait's ruling Al Sabah family over improving ties with Jordan appear to have been resolved in favour of normalisation, some members of Kuwait's elected parliament are still opposed to

such a move.

Bahrain declares seven days of mourning

In Manama, the official GNA news agency said Bahrain declared seven days of mourning on Sunday over the death of King Hussein and announced that the Gulf state's emir and prime minister would attend his funeral on Monday.

GNA said Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa had also ordered government and private offices to close on Monday in mourning for the Jordanian leader, who died of cancer on Sunday.

Flags would be lowered to half-mast for seven days, it said. GNA also reported that the emir, minister and Bahrain's emir, Sheikh Issa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa, would attend Monday's funeral in Amman.

Qatar says deeply saddened by King Hussein's death

In Doha, the emir's court said Qatar was deeply saddened by the death of King Hussein, calling the late Monarch "a courageous Arab leader."

"The emir, government and the people of the state of Qatar deeply mourn the death of King Hussein who was a courageous Arab leader and who spent his life in the service of his people and Arab causes," the emir's court said in a statement.

"The state of Qatar sympathises with the government and the people of Jordan in this sad tragedy and renews its continued support for the brothers in Jordan," the statement added.

"The state of Qatar is confident that His Majesty King Abdullah will continue the march in succession to his father," the statement added.

Oman's Qaboos to attend King Hussein's funeral

In Muscat, the official OMA news agency said "the Sultan Qaboos Ben Said received with great sadness the news of the death of King Hussein Ben Talal, a brother and a friend."

"The Sultan has ordered an official mourning of three days and to lower flags to half-mast from Sunday," it said.

"The government and people of the sultanate of Oman share the pain of their brothers in Jordan... and implore God to bless its successor."

Sultan Qaboos will represent Oman at King Hussein's funeral, which will be held Monday and is expected to be attended by around 40 foreign heads of state.

ONA quoted the statement as saying the sultan's participation in the funeral was to show sympathy with the royal family, government and people of Jordan.

Yemen sets three days of mourning

In Sanaa, the Yemeni government declared three days of mourning for King Hussein, saying flags would fly at half-mast in the country and on Yemeni diplomatic missions abroad during the three days of mourning.

"The passing of this great Arab leader is truly a big loss not only for the brotherly Jordanian people but also for the Arab and Islamic nations as a whole and for the entire world," a statement issued by President Ali Abdullah Saleh's office said.

Yemeni television suspended normal programmes to announce King Hussein's death and started broadcasting verses from the Koran.

Sudanese president to attend King Hussein's funeral

In Khartoum, officials said Sudanese President Omar Al

Bashir will head a high-level delegation to attend the funeral of King Hussein.

The announcement came as the Sudanese Council of Ministers issued a statement expressing the "heartfelt grief" of the Sudanese government and people following the death of King Hussein.

The government praised the late Monarch's role in "cementing" Sudanese-Jordanian relations.

The presidential delegation will consist of six senior cabinet ministers including Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail, several members of parliament and leading officials of the ruling National Congress.

Representatives of Sudanese business and women's associations and prominent public figures will also be part of the delegation, officials said.

Sudanese government officials and political analysts paid tribute to King Hussein in statements broadcast on state-run Omdurman Radio.

King Hassan praises Hussein for his wisdom

In Rabat, King Hassan of Morocco ordered three days of national mourning for a "dear brother" and "wise king."

The 69-year-old Moroccan leader is sending his son Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed to represent him at Monday's funeral, the official Moroccan news agency MAP said.

"The Arab and Muslim worlds has lost in King Hussein a wise king and a strong personality with an effective and distinguished presence in the world stages," King Hassan said in a message of condolence to Hussein's successor, King Abdullah.

The Moroccan monarch added: "We have known him since his boyhood, a dear brother and a loyal friend."

A royal palace statement said King Hassan called three days of national mourning from Sunday to pay tribute to the memory of King Hussein.

Algeria's Zeroual 'grieved' by Hussein's death

In Algiers, President Liamine Zeroual of Algeria expressed his "profound grief" over the death of King Hussein, who will be mourned for three days, officials said.

"I learned with profound grief of the death of your father His Majesty the King Hussein Ben Talal, a death which overwhelms the Jordanian people and the whole of the Arab Nation," Zeroual said in a message of condolence to King Abdullah.

Three days of mourning will begin Monday in Algeria.

Tunisia: One of the century's greatest leaders

President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia described the late King Hussein as "one of the greatest political leaders of the century" in a letter of condolence to King Abdullah.

"History will remember King

Hussein's fight for building his fatherland and consolidating security and for the work he relentlessly led for Arab unity and for installing peace and stability" in the Middle East and the world, the Tunisian leader wrote.

Ben Ali conveyed his "most sincere condolences and all his compassion" to the new Hashemite King and all his family.

Syrian referendum postponed

In Damascus, the official news agency SANA said a referendum in Syria to reconfirm Hafez Assad as president has been postponed until Wednesday because of the death of King Hussein.

The government issued a statement expressing its "profound sadness" over the Monarch's death and declaring a three-day period of mourning for King Hussein.

During the mourning period flags will fly at half-mast on all government buildings both at home and abroad, the statement said.

Syria and Jordan have had tense relations since the Kingdom signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994.

Syria's state-run television interrupted its normal broadcasts to make the announcement of mourning for King Hussein, followed by a recital of verses from the Koran.

It was not clear who would represent Syria at Hussein's funeral, but diplomats said it was not likely that a high-ranking Syrian official would go if senior Israeli officials were present.

Iraqi vice president to attend funeral

Iraq announced that Iraqi vice-president Taha Mohiaddin Ma'ruf would attend the funeral on Monday.

"Iraq will be represented in the funeral ceremony by a delegation headed by Vice-President Taha Mohiaddin Ma'ruf and Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry Noori Ismael Al Waysi," the official Iraqi News Agency reported.

But there was no immediate comment by Iraqi officials or media on either the death of King Hussein or the appointment of Abdullah as successor.

Official Iraqi media announced the King's death briefly in regular news bulletins.

In fact, prolonged electric power cuts in Baghdad and elsewhere left most Iraqis uninformed about the King's death.

Libya sets three-day mourning for King Hussein

Libya declared a three-day period of mourning for King Hussein.

Libyan state television, monitored in Tunis, read out a government statement saying flags would fly at half-mast in the country and television would broadcast in black and white during the three days of mourning.

Arab World perched on change of guard

Ghadeer Taber

AMMAN — Abdullah ben Hussein assumed the reins of power after the death of His Majesty King Hussein Sunday, signalling the end of an era in Jordan and the beginning of an eventual change of guard in much of the Middle East.

Many of the leaders of the Arab World, compatriots of the King, will arrive today to attend the funeral of the longest-serving ruler in the turbulent Middle East.

And in a few years time, the presidential sons and heirs apparent of these leaders will be ruling the Arab World, where more than anywhere else in the world, the stability and continuity of most of these countries have so far rested on their shoulders.

"It is no secret that most rulers of the 20 Arab countries are elder statesmen, who have ruled for a long period of time and if an Arab summit is held five years from now, most of them will not be there," wrote Fahed Al Fanek in the local mass-circulation Arabic daily Al Rai on Sunday.

But the question that remains to be answered is whether the younger generation of leaders who will take over from their ailing predecessors, will transform the fundamentals of how the Arab World is being governed or simply be new faces.

His Majesty King Abdullah, a 37-year-old army officer, was declared the new leader of Jordan at the end of nearly a half-century reign by his father, a pillar of stability in the region.

And hours later, he appointed his half-brother, Prince Hamzeh, as Crown Prince. Prince Hamzeh, who will turn 19 on March, is a student at Britain's Sandhurst Military Academy but remains largely unknown to many Jordanians.

As we approach the year 2000 most Arab rulers are ageing, and several are ill. In some places, unlike Jordan where the transition from father to son was smooth, the path of succession remains uncertain in key countries and is fraught with risk.

In regional power-house Saudi Arabia, Jordan's south-eastern neighbour, another transition, albeit informal, has already begun.

In Riyadh, the day-to-day control of the government has passed from King Fahd — 76 and ill for years — to his half-brother and designated heir, Crown Prince Abdullah.

In contrast, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, 56, who has been in power since a 1969 coup, has never designated a successor. Perhaps tellingly, he sent his eldest son last month to congratulate Prince Abdullah when the King des-

ignated him as Crown Prince on Jan. 25.

And in Egypt, one of the most important Arab countries the course of succession also remains uncertain. President Hosni Mubarak, 70, took power in 1981 after the assassination of Anwar Sadat. He has never named a deputy.

In the emirates of the Arabian Gulf, most leaders have ruled since gaining independence from Britain in the 1960s and 1970's and with the exception Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, who ousted his father in 1995, their average age is 70. Sheikh Hamad has begun slowly liberalising his tiny country.

The picture is much more chancy in Syria and among the Palestinians.

Both Syrian President Hafez al-Assad and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, will turn 70 this year. Both have unmistakable signs of deteriorating health.

Assad does have an official number two in place, Vice-President Abdul-Halim Khaddam, but has also been grooming his son, Bashar, an ophthalmologist, after his eldest son, Basil, died in a car accident four years ago. He has risen to the rank of lieutenant-colonel but it is known if the Syrian leader or others groups will determine who rules Syria.

Arafat, the Palestinian's central

leader since the 1960s, has so far avoided building up a potential successor.

Another country where possible instability looms is Iraq, where President Saddam Hussein has ruled since 1979.

If American efforts to overthrow him finally succeed, the result could be instability, but so far he looks to be the most fit of his colleagues.

"The leaders of the Middle East are ageing," former Prime Minister and Senator Taber Masri told the Jordan Times. "Change could come from within, with a new spirit to liberalise the regimes, bringing more democracy and relying more on state institutions than their predecessors."

Others, including analysts and politicians, are not so sure that new leaders will bring in more than a change of style to the top post.

They say each country has its own "specificity" and that while some leaders, with proper nudging could move towards democracy, others, feeling insecure, may revert to more oppressive means to continue their rule.

"I think we will see more of the same type of rule in most of these countries even after the reigns of power are passed on," said an analyst.

"They will bring in a younger

approach," he said. "But I would not expect a major transformation in most of these countries, but the relations between the leaders will be more positive," he predicted. "These leaders do not have territorial ambitions but will face great challenges."

Here at home, the new King will face the same daunting political and economic risks that challenged his father during his reign.

He takes over a country grappling with a \$6.5 billion foreign debt, rising poverty and unemployment and popular unease over Jordan's 1994 peace accord with Israel as well as repeated military showdowns between Iraq and the United States.

The new King has already said he will remain committed to peace in the Middle East, maintain the Kingdom's policy on Iraq and boost the country's growing democracy.

"I am an extension of His Majesty's outlook and his Majesty's beliefs," the 37-year-old major-general told several foreign journalists Thursday.

King Abdullah shares his father's wariness of religious fundamentalism and supports democracy and freedoms on condition they do not border on the fringes of anarchy.

Yet he is quite unlike King Hussein in his relationships with his peers in the region, whose fathers in many cases threatened the survival of one

another.

He developed a close circle of professional friends in the armies of the Gulf states, the U.S. and Israel, he told the reporters called partly to explain the events leading to his ascension to his new post replacing Prince Hassan, after he served for 34 years as number two.

This, analysts say, bodes well for more understanding between the countries where the majority of populations is under 30 years of age.

Prince Abdullah spoke of his close relationships with other royal families in the region, especially with young princesses in the military, and showed understanding for the problems plaguing them, including Islamic fundamentalism.

"We went to the same schools," said the prince, who attended school at Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts before enrolling at Sandhurst. "We ate in the same restaurants. We like the same movies. We have a lot in common, and we have become very good friends."

King Hussein's advice to the next generation of Arab leaders: "Repression doesn't work; it hasn't worked," he said in his last television interview before his death.

(Agencies contributed to this report)

"(To the righteous soul will be said:) 'O (thou) soul,

In (complete) rest and satisfaction! Come back thou To thy Lord,

Well pleased (thyself), And well-pleasing unto Him! Enter thou, then,

Among my Devotees! Yea, enter thou My Heaven'"

The Board of Directors and Employees of
Jordan Mobile Telephone Services (**Fastlink**)

extend to

His Majesty King Abdullah,
the Hashemite Family, and the Jordanian People
their heartfelt condolences on the passing of

His Majesty King Hussein Ben Talal

May God Rest His Soul in Peace

"To God we belong and to Him is our return"

Letters of condolence

WE WERE astonished to learn of and were deeply grieved on the passing away of His Majesty King Hussein. On behalf of the members of the whole Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Amman, I express my profound condolences on the passing away of His Majesty King Hussein.

His Majesty King Hussein, who was on the Throne for a period of more than forty six years, enjoys the love and esteem of the Jordanian people. He had exerted himself to defend the national sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Jordan, as well as promote the development of various aspects as the national economy, the cultural and educational causes, etc. The name of His Majesty was connected with the progress, development and prosperity of the whole nation. Meantime, His Majesty made active efforts to encourage the unity of the Arab Nations, many times he took part in the Arab Nations' leaders Summit and did his utmost to advance the Middle East Peace Process. Especially during his illness in America, His Majesty participated in the Wye Plantation peace talks between the Palestinian National Authority and Israel, and contributed greatly on the final reaching and assignment of the agreement, which gained him the extensive praises of the international community.

Jordan and China share good common relationships. In the recent year, with the joint efforts of His Majesty King Hussein and the Chinese leaders, the friendly cooperative relationships in various fields of both countries was greatly advanced. His Majesty was a familiar friend of the Chinese people, he has visited China twice — 1982 and 1983 — and contributed to the friendly cooperation between us effectively.

At this distressed moment, I believe that the Jordanian people will convert the sorrow into strength, and beneath the leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah, they are going to make further progress.

H.E. Baolai
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
People's Republic of China
Amman

WE SHARE your tears and join you in mourning the death of King Hussein, a man and leader of immense commitment to his nation and its people and contributor to human kind. We have always had great respect for his intelligence, competence, manner and sensitivity. Your nation and the world have lost an extraordinary human being and we extend to the Jordanian people and their new King Abdullah both our heartfelt sympathies and our hopes and best wishes for the future.

Joel J. Nobel, M.D.
President
ECRI
Amman

I AM Writing to express my deepest sympathies to the Royal Family and the Jordanian people during this tragic period. His Majesty King Hussein was a champion for Middle East peace for almost five decades. Jordan, the Middle East, and the world will be all the poorer without his leadership.

I was deeply moved by the King's intervention during last December's Wye Plantation negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority. Although I have never met the King, his personal warmth, his love of the Jordanian people, and desire to build a world for our children and grandchildren radiated from his every public utterance. I am confident that His Majesty, King Abdullah will continue and build upon his father's legacy.

The thoughts and prayers of the people of the United States — Muslims, Christians and Jews — are with the Jordan people and the Royal Hashemite Family on this day.

Jeffrey W. Taliaferro
U.S.

I AM very sorry to learn that His Majesty King Hussein passed on. I am deeply touched by the Jordanians' affection for the King. It's so genuine that I could not help shedding tears.

I think the death of the King is a loss to the whole world because he was a leader of fortitude and great talents. May God bless Jordan!

Victoria Chao
vicchao@ms18.hinet.net

IT IS with deep sorrow that the plant management of National Aluminium Industrial Company, NALCO, extends to the Hashemite Family, and our larger Jordanian family, our condolences over the death of his Majesty King Hussein Ben Talal, whom God has summoned to his side on this day of Feb. 7, 1999. We would like to wish the Hashemite Family and the larger Jordanian family, who remains resilient and steadfast in times of national tragedy, to transcend the pain and sorrow, and to retain composure in the face of the challenges that lie ahead. We pray to our God, Allah, to bestow upon the late King Hussein, his eternal mercy and benevolence.

Munther Haj Hasan
Amman

LIKE COUNTLESS others my tears flowed down my cheeks when I heard the sad news.

Like countless others, I wanted a miracle. I wanted to join the great many Jordanians, as one, to pray for the King.

Tears will not stop flowing. Hearts will not stop aching. Words will not be sufficient in describing the pain.

The King will forever live in the hearts of those who love and believed in him. May his legacy and his work towards peace continues.

Fong C.
Australia

PLEASE ACCEPT my sincere sympathy to the people of Jordan on the death of King Hussein. Here in America, like the world, King Hussein was recognised as a man of peace, courage, and moral conviction. The world has lost a great leader.

David Temple
U.S.

I AM saddened by the news about your King. Through him, Jordan has gained respect throughout the world, no matter the issues. King Hussein has represented stability and continuity in a troubled region. This is a sad moment for all of us.

Bjorn L.
Norway

AMERICANS ARE DEEPLY saddened by the death of His Majesty King Hussein, who was a giant of a man.

Ray Cavanagh
U.S.

OVER THE past 46 years, Jordan and the world witnessed in King Hussein, one of the most appreciated and dignified leaders. We, in Jordan, love and cherish the King as we love and cherish our fathers. I am confident that with the legacy and wisdom our King left us all, we Jordanians will continue to move ahead, God willing. We stand proud today as a nation, as we have always been, with our heads raised high that such a great extraordinary man was long among us, a Jordanian. To Al Hussein, the King, the Father, the inspiration who changed the lives of so many, we salute you. May you now rest in peace, and may God grant us the peace on earth that King Hussein always believed in and sought for.

Musa A. Saket
Manufacturing Engineer



THOUGH DEAD in body, we say long live the King, Hussein Ben Talal, for his legacy and faith MUST continue to live with us as long as we live. His works, his faith in his maker, and his courage must live within us. This is the only way for us to honour his great memory.

The task now for us Jordanians is to honour his legacy, to stand by King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, as we stood by his great father, and look towards a great, prosperous Jordan full of hope.

Long live the King, both father and son. Long live the King.

Jabra Ghnim
Amman

I AM saddened by the death of this truly great King, and offer my prayers for a truly great nation, its people and the Royal Family.

Rusty Cole
U.S.

THE WORLD has lost one of its most important leaders and gaining a new voice in His Majesty King Abdullah. May peace be with our Jordanian friends. Your friends in Texas are deeply saddened.

John Wooddell
Texas, U.S.

KINDLY FORWARD our condolences to his Majesty's family, on behalf of the Al Kurd family living in the U.S.

Al Kurd family
basem@wans.net

I HAVE just heard on Spanish radio that His Majesty King Hussein has passed away.

I would like to express my sadness for the death of this champion of peace, a kind and strong man, King Hussein, and offer my condolences to his family and all the people of Jordan.

I thank God for giving you a King like Hussein, and pray that He give strength to all the people of Jordan, especially to his son King Abdullah, to help achieve the peace that we need, and to lead his country to prosperity and happiness.

Ángel Martín-Matute
Spain

IT'S 5:15 P.M. here in the UAE as I sit down with tears in my eyes and with a heavy heart to write you a brief but heartfelt message of love to you on the death of your King. You must realise that although I have spent many years in the North Africa and the Middle East I had not visited Jordan until last February 1998.

I have never witnessed such wonderful people of any nationality, with such joy for living and such a keen insight and appreciation for the ability of this country, Jordan, and that immense love for the country's exceptional ruler. He was a man among men but most important of all his love and devotion to peace will remain his greatest legacy.

My husband and I arrived in Jordan Jan. 20, 1999, the day after the King had witnessed his loving return from his hospital bed in the clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

I had insisted that my husband of 30 years see this wonderful country that captivated my heart.

The fire crackers, the rain, the word "Welcome!" will ever remain close to my soul. My husband was enjoying, with me, my return trip to Mount Nebo. We were lost. Every traffic light we encountered was followed with return directions to Amman resounding with the "Welcome!" greeting.

Your loss is not only strictly yours. Your grief is not yours alone. It's 6:15 p.m. and I still can't halt my own personal tears.

As a simple Canadian citizen I offer you my grief, loss and love for a King who shall always be a King in the truest sense and meaning of the word.

Beverly Ann Moats
UAE

MY DEEPEST condolences got out to the Royal Family and to the people of Jordan. This is a great loss to us all. To me and to all Jordanians he will always be remembered as not just our King but also our father.

King Hussein will remain the King of all hearts.

JAFAR A. NEBULAS
Destruc@aol.com

I AM writing to express my deep love and respect for your late King.

King Hussein will be missed by all who believe in peace. He was a candle in the darkness of this world. We may never see another like him in our lifetimes. I pray the new King proves to be just like his father. The people of Texas share your grief. Bless you all.

Jack Olin Hotchkiss
Texas
U.S.

MY WIFE and I live some 8,000 miles from your land... our love and concern go to all of the Jordanian people on this day. Jordan and the world have lost a great leader, a man who has been a model for any who would be leaders of men. We hope that King Abdullah will truly prove to be "a cub of the Lion King," and in his own way, continue the example that Jordan and King Hussein has given the world the past decades. If we, here in Seattle, Washington, can be feeling such a sense of loss, I cannot imagine your feelings. King Hussein was a man I would have followed into hell... courageous, compassionate, ethical, and concerned for the people of every land, and for this planet we try to share with one another. There are too few such leaders in this world.

May the peace of the Lord be with all of you.

Tony Copes and Trish Rogers
Washington
U.S.

ON BEHALF of myself, my immediate family and all my brothers here in Yonkers, New York. I would like to extend our deepest sympathy to HM the Queen and her children, His Majesty King Abdullah, and the entire Royal Family for the greatest loss Jordan ever had, the passing away of his Majesty King Hussein.

May God grant his Majesty, the New King of Jordan, King Abdullah many years.

And guide him in wisdom, carriage and glory to guide the Jordanian people to the highest levels of greatness in this tough and challenging world.

With all of our deepest sympathies and love for all of you and the Jordanian people.

Saleem Ibrahim Naber and family
Yonkers
U.S.

LET ME extend my deepest sympathy to King Abdullah, his family and the people of Jordan. I, as most American citizens, have watched King Hussein on the world stage, filling the role of statesman, diplomat, peacemaker and unshakable pillar of moderation in an area of the world wracked by turmoil.

But in it stood Jordan, an island of moderation and sense.

King Hussein, was and will be viewed by history as a truly great statesman of this century, and the father of the modern Hashemite Kingdom.

Americans, big and little have always considered King Hussein and Jordan as a friend and ally in the never ending quest for world peace.

May the blessings of "God Almighty" be on King Hussein and with his son and heir King Abdullah, during this traumatic period in his life and that of your nation.

I am confident that King Abdullah, after the grieving process has subsided, will find, in the memory of his father, all the strength and example he will ever need to rule with.

Just an average American citizen
BELEAHY@aol.com

CONDOLENCES TO Queen Noor, the Royal Family, and all the people of Jordan on the loss of King Hussein.

I always admired him as one of the greatest leaders of peace, not only in the Middle East, but for the world. He showed us all how to work together in love and how to make a real difference in the world. May his lessons of peace and love be with all of us in this time of grief.

His Majesty King Hussein, his family, and the people of Jordan are in my prayers. Although I am but a simple working American, please let the Royal Family and all the people of Jordan know that I feel as if I have lost a very dear friend. He was truly a very great leader for the world, not just Jordan. May God be with all of us in this time of loss.

Patricia W. Williamson
Alexandria
U.S.

I WISH to extend the most sincere of condolences to the family of King Hussein and to the people of Jordan on the death of their beloved King. Morally and intellectually he was a giant. He will be sorely missed by all who long for peace in the Middle East.

William P. O'Grady
Rahaima@aol.com

IN AMERICAN vernacular we would call HM King Hussein "a class act."

He will be sorely missed.

Melinda Newton
Leesburg, VA
U.S.

IT WAS with deep grief and great sadness that I learnt of the death of my King. For me and my family it is like we have lost a father. King Hussein was Jordan and Jordan was King Hussein. He cared for the country very much like a father cares for his children. One of my proudest days was when I received my nursing diploma from the hands of King Hussein at the Princess Muna College of Nursing. The prayers of my family go out to all members of the Royal family and the people of Jordan. We trust in God to guide King Abdullah in the days and years to come.

Samira Foster (nee Hamarneh)
Bury
England

ASA recent Bone Marrow Transplant survivor, my heart is breaking for HRH Queen Noor and the King's family that the transplants were unsuccessful.

Humanity is an amazing thing — what affects an ordinary person in Portland can affect the great King of Jordan, and this should give us all pause. I have always deeply respected King Hussein and Queen Noor, and my thoughts and prayers are with them now as they are with His Majesty King Abdullah, and all the people of Jordan.

Amber Stubbs
Portland, OR
U.S.

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To lose a father

WHEN AT noon yesterday I boarded a taxi on my way to the newspaper, the driver brought to my attention the fact that Radio Amman had just started broadcasting verses from the Holy Koran. When I listened I thought to myself, the King is dead. I could not control my emotions and started to sob. The taxi driver, himself stunned, began to console me. But by the time we reached the newspaper building he too was in tears.

I truly had no father except King Hussein. I had lost my own father in the war of 1948 when I was two. He died near Jerusalem with other volunteers from Jordan who in those days rushed to rescue the Holy City. My mother died a few years later. And my brother and I ended up in a boarding school run by the Army within the Zarqa Army camp. King Hussein visited us at the school on different occasions. He would sit with us and ask us questions and butt us on our shoulders the warm way I imagined fathers did. We were impressed by his athletic build and we were captivated by his smile and strong voice.

When I was in my teens, impatient as teenagers would be, I would dream of seeing the King and asking him to do the "right things" for Jordan. I thought during these days that it was possible for the whole country — then two million — to go out and jog in the morning like our teachers made us do. I thought that morning exercise should be made compulsory; that Jordan Radio should broadcast exercise music; that the whole country would be up and running at 7 in the morning.

I had my quarrels with the King those days. I did not understand then why he differed with Egypt's Nasser or with Syria's Baathists? Why did we lose the West Bank? The propaganda from Cairo was so overwhelming, and the times were so confused, and I was such a novice. Yet, I felt so close to him that I would hold conversations with him in my mind, arguing earnestly for what I thought were the right things to be done. Yet every time a crisis passed and he addressed the nation, as he did frequently, he managed to convince me and quell my fears. I could see his logic and believe in his arguments. But unlike most fathers he left me a great deal of space to pursue my own thoughts. He never would tell those who were so close to him, as I learned many years later, that he was the ultimate authority. He sought their counsel, and when they were convincing, he followed their advice. He said this to his son, Prince Abdullah, in his last letter to him. "Seek their (your people's) advice; consult with them."

During the past 14 years with the Jordan Times we interacted. This newspaper, like every other periodical and every politician in the country, also held dialogues with the King in the most cordial of manners. We commented on almost every political and economic decision that he and his government made. We expressed our opinions. At times, like in the case of the Press Law that was passed last year, we were very critical. Yet neither we nor any of his political opponents were ostracised for expressing our opinions and defending them.

I will not only remember King Hussein as a political leader, but also as a builder of a nation, a nation in which the likes of me, the orphans are being taken care of by the man himself, the man who most recently gave his own palace to the orphans. The man who himself adopted an orphan and raised her with his own children.

There is possibly not one Jordanian who has not shook hands with him. During those 47 years he visited every town, village and human settlement. He opened pipelines carrying water to the tiniest of villages; switched on electricity to reach every home, has plaques carrying his name and the date of opening of many a school over the country. The image of him jumping out of his car, hands waving in the air and a warm smile on his face will linger forever in the mind and soul of every Jordanian for a long time to come.

At two I did not feel the loss of my blood father. At 53 I lost my real father. I, and all my brothers and sisters in Jordan are in grief.

Abdullah Hasanat

Salute to the champion of pe

*Not for him do I weep.
 Know I not that he hath gone to that
 which is better for him than this world?
 But I weep for the tidings of Heaven
 which have been cut off from us.
 — Umm Aymun to the Companions of the
 Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him)
 at His burial.*

WHEN HE WAS only 15 Prince Hussein was at his grandfather King Abdullah's side when the King was shot dead by an assassin outside Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. Prince Hussein's own life was spared that Friday in July 1951 when another bullet aimed at the young Prince was deflected by a medal on his chest. Years later, King Hussein would write of that day in his autobiography: "I learned the importance of death: that when you have to die, you die, for it is God's judgement. Only thus have I found the particular inner peace granted to those who do not fear death."

That strength of conviction saw King Hussein through nearly half a century of regional turmoil accompanied by domestic progress, in which at many stages throughout, he faced and conquered death.

Yesterday he fought his last battle, and in mourning him Jordanians will recall his life through its tribulations and triumphs, which for any other man would have constituted several lifetimes.

King Hussein bin Talal was born on Nov. 14, 1935 in Amman, to his father Prince (later King) Talal bin Abdullah and his mother Princess (later Queen) Zein Al Sharaf bint Jamil. Hussein bin Talal was the 42nd generation direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). King Hussein's branch of the Hashemite family ruled in Mecca from 1201 (C.E.) until 1925 (C.E.).

His great-grandfather, Sharif Hussein bin Ali, Emir of Mecca, and later King of the Hejaz, led the 1916 Great Arab Revolt against the Ottoman Empire. Sharif Hussein was in alliance with Great Britain, which later during the war broke its promises to the Sharif to establish a united Arab state in most of Arab Asia. Subsequently several separate Arab states emerged: Syria, Lebanon, the Hejaz, Iraq and Transjordan, and a British mandate in Palestine with the objective of setting up a homeland for the Jews there.

Sharif Hussein's second son, King Abdullah, founded the Emirate of Transjordan on April 11, 1921. The Emirate assumed the name of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan upon formal independence from Britain on March 22, 1946.

Following the creation of the State of Israel in 1948, more than 500,000 Palestinians fled their homes, settling in the West Bank and East Bank. Seeking to preserve Arab control of the West Bank territories, King Abdullah and Palestinian leaders in 1950 moved to unite the two banks of the Jordan River into a single state under the King's leadership.

With the assassination of King Abdullah on July 20, 1951 the Throne passed to Crown Prince Talal, eldest son of the martyred monarch, on Sept. 6, 1951. Due to health reasons, King Talal abdicated on Aug. 11, 1952, in favour of his eldest son Prince Hussein, who had been named Crown

Prince on Sept. 9, 1951.

According to the Constitution, Prince Hussein could not assume kingly duties until he reached the age of 18 by the Muslim calendar. Therefore a Regency Council performed his functions until he came of age and assumed his constitutional powers on May 2, 1953. King Hussein was 18 years old.

Having completed his elementary education in Amman, King Hussein attended Victoria College in Alexandria, Egypt, continued his studies in England at Harrow and received his military education at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

Thrust into a key leadership role during the turbulent 1950s that were fraught with Arab frustration at the violent establishment of Israel and the loss of Palestine, King Hussein sought to promote his own aspirations for Arab nationalism based on "complete equality" and respect for the individual national sovereignties of the different Arab countries and regimes. He would repeat his call "to unite on all important issues, to organise in every respect and to dispel friction" between the Arabs again and again throughout his life.

Within the span of four years, 1957-1960, there were three direct attempts on the King's life and one attempted coup.

A plot to seize the Royal palace was foiled by loyal troops; while heading for Switzerland, Syrian jets tried to force his plane into the ground in what the King later described as "the narrowest escape from death I have ever had"; and twice there were attempts to poison him.

The loss of the West Bank and Arab East Jerusalem in the war against Israel in 1967 witnessed the second major influx of Palestinians into Jordan. The devastation caused by the June war was felt most poignantly by the loss of the Islamic and Christian holy sites in the West Bank and Jerusalem as well as on the economic level in the Kingdom. Jordan continues as guardian of the Muslim holy shrines. In 1994 the third Hashemite restoration of the Dome of the Rock, completed in 691 CE to commemorate Prophet Muhammad's night journey, was completed under the instruction of King Hussein, who donated more than \$8 million of his personal wealth to finance the gilding of the dome with 5,000 glittering new gold plates. The project was widely acclaimed as one of the most ambitious religious restoration undertakings in history.

The conflict of 1970 further put to test the King's acumen. After the Arab Army routed Palestinian guerrillas out of Jordan in September that year, the King worked hard to restore national unity between citizens of East Bank and West Bank origins.

That year also, the King again faced assassins. In June, gunmen fired on his car as he headed to the scene of a clash between Jordanian forces and fedayeen guerrillas outside Amman. In September, the Monarch's convoy escaped an armed ambush.

King Hussein's efforts in seeking the full implementation of U.N. Resolution 242 and 338, his recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people at the Rabat Summit in 1974, and his 1988 decision to legally and administratively disengage from the West Bank were all steps at helping the Palestinian people attain their

'We can rightfully ask ourselves about the measure of our achievements in the face of the national setbacks and upheavals which have beset our nation and world in these turbulent times. We thank God that we have achieved a great deal. We have established in this land the foundations of a modern democratic state. This was due to God's bounty in the first place, and also to the positive response of this noble people, who, regardless of their origins and habitats, have been aware of the message, cognizant of their role, and conscious of the challenges they have had to meet'

— His Majesty King Hussein,
 November 5, 1992

full rights on their own soil.

When the Palestinians unilaterally decided to enter into separate talks with Israel in September 1993, King Hussein told the nation (Oct. 12 1993): "...we approve of their decision and do not diminish today our commitment of yesterday to support it and the Palestinians and their rights which are not amenable to any disposition but by themselves."

The following July King Hussein told the Lower House of Parliament and the Cabinet: "As you know, we were taken by surprise by the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the meeting in Washington. After contemplation of what happened, the reaction has been, and is still, to urge the Palestinian Arab people to close ranks on their national soil, and to think carefully and decide whatever they want. We will not practice brinkmanship with them, but we support them to the best of our capabilities."

The breakthrough agreement in 1993 opened the way for Jordan and Israel to proceed towards a peace deal which led to the July 25, 1994 Washington Declaration and the Jordan-Israel Peace Treaty signed on Oct. 26, 1994 at the southern border crossing of Wadi 'Araba. The treaty guaranteed Jordan the restoration of its occupied land and the Kingdom's equitable share of water from the Yarmouk and Jordan rivers. The treaty also delineated Jordan's western borders, clearly and conclusively for the first time, putting an end to the dangerous Zionist suggestion that "Jordan is Palestine."

On the domestic front, the King's decision to hold elections in 1989 paved the way for Jordan's democratic process, the ongoing debate over the elections law, the formation and consolidation of political parties, and the continuous pursuit of a free and credible press.

These strides towards democracy, pluralism and freedom of expression rallied Jordanians into a new era of political discourse and experiments. Since the King's call for general elections in 1989, Jordanian voters have gone to the polls three times (1989, 1993 and 1997) to elect their representatives to the 80-member Lower House.

In an address to the meeting of Arab political parties on Dec. 16, 1996, King Hussein expressed his belief in the separation of powers of the state. He said: "We in Jordan have sought, over the past years, to enhance our democratic process... We realised from the beginning that true democracy must be based on the separation between the legislative, executive, and judicial authorities, with each authority observing its limits, and not infringing on the others."

Ever conscious that democracy is a continuing process and that its nascent stages produced a plethora of political parties, the King told Middle East Insight magazine last year: "As far as democracy is concerned, I think that there are still some steps that should be taken in time. I am particularly referring to the party system, where it is not a question of individuals but of a smaller number of parties with ideas and with plans that could excite and gain the support of many segments of the population. Then we can really have the kind of democracy that we are seeking."

Nearly four years ago, King Hussein had said, "I wish democracy and peace to be my

Queen Noor captures Jordanian hearts

By Peter King
 Agence France Presse

HER MAJESTY Queen Noor first captured the heart of His Majesty King Hussein before capturing the hearts of Jordanians with her undying devotion to her late husband.

The 47-year-old Queen's popularity grew steadily through her 20-year marriage to the King, but she secured her place in Jordanian hearts during Hussein's seven-month battle with cancer which he lost on yesterday.

Queen Noor, who was at the King's bedside when he died, put on a brave face Saturday night when she emerged from Al Hussein Medical Centre where her husband was unconscious to join a candlelight vigil.

She was mobbed by the crowds of emotional Jordanians who had gathered there since the King's return to Amman Friday after suffering a cancer relapse.

More and more pictures of the Queen have begun appearing in homes and shop windows alongside those of her husband who paid a heart-warming tribute to her in the last public letter he ever wrote.

"Noor brought happiness to me and cared for me during my illness, with the utmost loving affection."

"Like me, she has endured much anxiety and many shocks, but has always placed her faith in God and hid her tears behind smiles."

"She, the Jordanian who belongs to this country with every fibre of her being, holds her head high in the defence and service of this country's interest. She is the mother who devotes all her efforts to her family. We have grown together in soul and mind."

A member of the Royal entourage also paid tribute to the King's relationship with Noor: "He is very proud of her and asks her for advice on various non-political subjects," he said shortly before the King's death.

Born Lisa Najeeb Halaby on August



23, 1951 to a distinguished Arab-American family the blonde-haired, blue-eyed Princeton graduate started a career in architecture which soon brought her to Jordan.

It was after becoming director of planning and design projects for the country's national airline, Royal Jordanian, that she met King Hussein, recently widowed from his third marriage to Queen Alia who died in a helicopter crash.

They married on June 15, 1978 at a low-key ceremony in the gardens of the Queen Mother's palace after she converted to Islam.

Despite appearing shy at first, Queen Noor has built herself as one of the country's best ambassadors, championing the rights of women and working to eliminate the misperception of Islam as a fanatical religion.

She also became increasingly involved in the international anti-landmine campaign which she said grabbed her interest during her years at Princeton when her fellow-students were being drafted to fight in Vietnam.

After hosting a conference of the Landmine Survivors Network in Amman last summer, she became the group's patron and campaigned for Jordan's ratification of the Ottawa Mine Ban Treaty which followed soon after.

At home, she has also taken up a wealth of educational, environmental and community development projects under the umbrella of the Noor Al-Hussein Foundation which she founded in 1998.

Noor, who keeps the title of Queen after King Hussein's death, speaks Arabic, English and French and is a keen photographer.

Noor and Hussein have four children: HRH Prince Hamzah, 18, and HRH Prince Hashem, 17, HRH Princess Eman, 15, and HRH Princess Rayah, 12.

A schoolmate
 COURT

By Peter de la B...

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Shedding the lion of peace and nation builder



'I wish democracy and peace to be my legacy to my people and the shield of generations to come'

— His Majesty King Hussein, June 13, 1995

legacy to my people and the shield of generations to come."

During the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis King Hussein's position, although perceived by the allied coalition as in favour of Baghdad, won him tremendous popular support at home. Perhaps his strongest plea for Arab unity came during the Arab League summit in Cairo when he appealed for an Arab regional settlement to the problem of Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait. Jordan paid dearly for its stand in both political and economic losses. But in recent years relations with the Kingdom's Gulf Arab neighbours have warmed, and the King's role as the linchpin in the Arab-Israeli peace process put Jordan squarely back in its position as peace partner and facilitator. To his expressed dismay King Hussein's appeals to the Iraqi regime to yield to the demands of the international community for the sake of the Iraqi people and the security and progress of the Arab World have been met with intransigence.

King Hussein's determination to make peace with Israel, brought him significant challenges that the Kingdom must continue to contend with in the face of the stalled peace talks. In the most selfless and courageous act to revive the deadlocked talks between the Palestinians and Israelis, King Hussein left his sickbed in Rochester, Minnesota late last October in the middle of an arduous course of chemotherapy to lend his guidance and urging to the two parties at Wye Plantation in the U.S. state of Maryland. Standing at the podium with the disarming dignity and candor that has won him world respect, the King made it undeniably clear that peace was the only road open. Witnessing the signing of the new peace deal between Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and confronting his own future, King Hussein remarked: "I have a lot of faith in God, and I believe that one lives one's destiny. And as far as I am concerned, my morale is the highest it has ever been. And this has been a shot in the arm for me, what you have accomplished today..."

That Jordan, a small, resource-scarce country in the midst of a volatile region, was capable of surmounting its historic challenges, is testimony to the extraordinary vision, fortitude, and statesmanship of King Hussein. And it was his faith and determination that moved the Kingdom to build the political, economic, scientific and social institutions that will guarantee its future.

Most of Jordan's population was born after the King assumed his constitutional powers. The bond between the King and his people is genuine and enviable. That bond was constantly strengthened by

King Hussein's caring for the quality of life of each citizen, his commitment to Jordan's development and prosperity, his determination to invest in what he called "our most precious asset, the individual citizen," and above all his modesty and compassion.

The subject of countless articles, features, commentaries and books, King Hussein brought Jordan to the fore of the global community as a respected nation dedicated to the pursuit of peace and prosperity for its people, the region and the world.

King Hussein, whose eldest son Abdullah became King, is survived also by Her Majesty Queen Noor and his eleven other children: Their Royal Highnesses Princess Alia from his

marriage to Princess Dina Abdel-Hamid; Prince Faisal, Princess Aisha and Princess Zein from his marriage to Princess Muna; Princess Haya and Prince Ali from his marriage to the late Queen Alia; Prince Hamzah, designated as Crown Prince Sunday, Prince Hashem, Princess Eman and Princess Raya from his marriage to Her Majesty Queen Noor; and Abeer Muhaisin, whom the King adopted after the death of Queen Alia. He is mourned also by his brothers Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad and Prince Hassan, and his sister Princess Basma.

Jennifer Hamarneh

'What does a man seek in this world?

A position, or a throne?

Man seeks peace of mind and the fear of Almighty God.

As long as one knows that there is a judgement day, he tries to keep his conscience clear and to serve and do what he can. People's trust is very dear, and one must be up to it, not by trying to do what pleases people everywhere on every occasion, but by doing what satisfies one's conscience. All what we hope for is that a day will come, when we have all gone, when people will say that this man has tried, and his family tried. This is all there is to seek in this world'

— His Majesty King Hussein, February 25, 1998

hearts

Farewell to the lion of Jordan

A schoolmate from Harrow remembers His Majesty's courage, integrity and joie de vivre

By Peter de la Billiere

KING HUSSEIN, soldier, statesman, leader and a man of legendary courage, epitomised the characteristics of the Jordanians. I first met him when we were both at Harrow and, from then on, our lives touched at regular intervals, with our shared interest in the military and our different roles in the Middle East.

Prince Faisal of Iraq and Prince Hussein of Jordan arrived at Harrow, with no great acclaim, to be treated to the strict discipline and post-war food rationing that we all suffered. I met Hussein on several occasions, but as we lived in different houses we did not become close associates.

I remember his reputation as a lively and vigorous personality, more concerned with the challenge of breaking school rules than the demands of academia: a man after my own heart. He smuggled a Rover car into a small garage in the school, and while I had to break bounds by going to London on the Underground, he managed it in style by driving, and at speed.

Perhaps Harrow offered Hussein, as it did myself, a training ground for handling the challenges and dangers of life and, above all, for exercising the understanding and consideration for others that is the core of leadership. It was "40 Years On" when Hussein, with typical courage and consideration, gave a dinner to those of us who had known him at Harrow. Arranged by James Upton, a long-term friend from Harrow days, it was the first engagement he accepted after his initial treatment for cancer.

It is a mark of the man that his old friends took priority over his personal well-being and the affairs of state. Sitting next to him, days together at Harrow put into perspective the pressures and dangers he had faced. We discussed our days at school and our dif-

ferent roles in the Gulf war.

We talked as two old school friends and, with his gift for humility, there were no awkward divisions, as one might expect between one of the world's most respected and senior heads of state and a retired, ageing general from an allied army.

As many others experienced, he would often address one as "Sir," as if one were his senior, but he did it with such kindness and genuineness that it came across as the courtesy it was meant to be. This, of course, enhanced my respect for him, without in any way building up my own ego: such was his respect and love for other people.

Our involvement in military affairs brought us together on many occasions. When I was a young officer in the Special Air Service he asked me to advise on his recently created Special Forces. I found them manned by tough, outstanding soldiers and officers, but woefully short on equipment and in primitive accommodation.

I was an insignificant major, yet the King of Jordan asked for my personal comments direct to himself, and had the humility to take note of them and to express his personal appreciation. So started a long and special relationship between King Hussein and the SAS. Jordan's Special Forces are among the best in the world thanks to his interest and to the leadership of Crown Prince Abdullah [now King Abdullah].

Just before the Gulf war, when I commanded the then-skeleton Joint Force Headquarters, I planned a major tri-service exercise in Jordan. Once again, I drew benefit from his support and understanding of the military context and, of course, from the contribution of Jordanian troops who were to work with the British Services and provide the "enemy."

The exercise was cancelled as the Gulf war loomed and King Hussein's support for Iraq produced both benefits and differences. After the war, I visited him in his modest house

outside Amman, where he received me with his typical generosity.

He reaffirmed both Jordan's traditional friendship with Britain and his desire to reestablish it, and told me that he had advised Saddam Hussein that his seizure of hostages was doing him more harm than good. This advice, he said, pushed Saddam to his decision to release the hostages.

He was in no need of material grandeur. His offices are modest and discreet, and would not be accepted by most leaders in industry or government. I visited Jordan just before his most recent course of treatment and, as always, he had time to see me to discuss days past, to review the current situation and to introduce me to members of his family.

Every year, I have been privileged to receive a card sent at Christmas with a photograph of his home and family, and this closeness to family life extended to his greater family: that of the people of Jordan.

There are only two people I have known whom I set above all others. Hussein, the man rather than the king, is one of them. I admired his loyalty to friends and country; I respected his leadership at home and in international affairs; I loved his kindness, his concern for others and his humility. Above all, I respect and admire his personal courage and integrity.

The world has lost a mighty leader, and the country of Jordan will now require all of that great man's qualities of courage and statesmanship as it faces the future: I am losing the school chum whom I most admired in my life.

The writer was commander of the British forces during the Gulf War



Letters of condolence

I AM an American who is married to a Jordanian, and I lived in Jordan for four years. I would like to send my condolences to the Jordanian people and especially to King Hussein's family.

We here in our house in the U.S. are very saddened over the loss of His Majesty. He was a great man that we all loved and respected, and he will be truly, truly missed.

Laurie Abu Obeid and Family
U.S.

I WISH TO express my most sincere condolences to the Royal family, the Government and people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan over the death of a truly great man. King Hussein was the greatest leader in the region. He towered over others in his integrity, honesty and humanity. He led his people through some of the most disruptive and troublesome times in the recent past with a steady hand despite the aggression of neighbours and outside powers. He worked for peace when possible and upheld the independence of his people at all times. He will be missed all around the world by people who love peace. May his God smile upon him and take him to his breast. May God smile upon his people in this sad time.

P. Davison
U.K.

I AM very saddened by the news I heard today about your wonderful King Hussein, and merely wish to convey my thoughts across the world to the people of Jordan. You were truly blessed to have such a man in your presence.

Unlike most world leaders, your King Hussein was a man of vision, a man of peace, a man of understanding, and as such, a man of the world. As I write this, I do know what his status is. But as I write this, I can only help and pray that The God of us all will reward him for his efforts.

I am just an ordinary citizen of the United States of America, wishing the people of Jordan my heartfelt respect and condolences. God be with us in this world of turbulence at this time. Peace to all.

David Stuart
New York City
U.S.

IN A time when politics has generally earned itself a bad name, His Majesty King Hussein has been an example of a true Monarch, statesman and gentleman. I count a privilege the time I have spent in Jordan, and hope to remain here for many years to come.

Though this is a loss for all of us, I know that God, in His love and mercy, has a plan for each of us, and it is truly Heaven's gain.

May God rest his soul in peace.

David O. MacDonald
Amman, Jordan
dom@mariahc.com



BY THE will of Allah, the Almighty, His Majesty King Hussein will rest in peace, and Allah will accept him for the great Muslim leader that he was to all of us, in Jordan and abroad.

It is with great sorrow that I write, as I am not in our beloved country today, and I, like all of my Jordanian brethren, feel so helpless as His Majesty, our father, our brother, and our devoted leader, lays to rest.

I have always looked to His Majesty as my own father, and the very force that pumps the blood through my Jordanian heart. His Majesty is the symbol of my heritage, of my father's family, and of my mother's family. I have now lost a member of my family, yet his eternal spirit will live on with me forever. He is now the wind that blows atop of Ajloun, he is the sunset in Wadi Rum, he is the red rose splendour of Petra, and he is the elegance that makes us Jordan.

His Majesty is now in the splendour of Allah. The Almighty, we are fortunate that he leaves us with his wisdom and foresight. His Majesty has blessed us with outstanding leadership, and people that can now carry the torch of peace into the new century. His Majesty King Hussein has bestowed upon us the strength and wisdom of the Hashemite Family, and we are blessed with their excellency in service, true dedication, and leadership. Thanks to Allah, The Almighty.

As one people of Jordan, we must look at His Majesty's legacy as an inspiration, and as a fine example as how to live our own lives, with strength, honour, integrity, and vision. His Majesty's vision has been passed on now, and it is incumbent upon each and every one of us to show the world that we love and trust our country, and that we have one hundred per cent trust and faith in the Al Hashemite Family, and in His Majesty King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, as the leader of our tribe.

Malik Ben Sabri Abu Rashid and family
U.S.

OUR DEEPEST sympathy for the loss of a great person, statesman and leader. King Hussein will always be remembered as a man of great wisdom and compassion. He was dearly loved on both sides of the river and for me came to symbolise the peace itself that we all so crave for. I often said that it would have been a great honour to have him be the king of the region, not just Jordan. That can no longer happen but his legacy, that of striving for peace and justice until the very last moment should be the example that we commit ourselves to follow in his good name and memory.

In these days of sorrow our wishes for the health and happiness of Jordan are with you. I remain deeply deeply saddened by this loss.

Gidon Bromberg
Friends of the Earth Middle East
Israel

MY FAMILY and I wish to express our deepest sympathy to the Royal family and the people of Jordan at the very sad moment in your nation's history.

May his efforts to bring peace to our troubled region and between our peoples be his legacy for all of us.

Danny Goodman
Kibbutz Nir-Yitzhak
Israel

HAVING SPENT a year and a half in Libya and been honoured to drink tea with Arabic friends who spoke quite frankly to me I have had an interest in the sad history of the Middle East. Your King was a special man who was warm, peace loving and very concerned for the welfare of the Jordanian people. I feel sad that the Jordanian nation has lost such a man, and I pray that his son will be able to continue to offer the leadership you need.

My country was deeply divided after 82 years and united to achieve prosperity. I hope your country can unite peacefully in the future and finish the work began by one of history's truly great kings.

Paul Upchurch
Williamsville, N.Y.
U.S.

I AND many thousands of Americans are deeply saddened by the loss of King Hussein.

Mark Shapera
U.S.

OUR HOME here in Birmingham, U.K. is a very, very sad place today. There are no rulers in the world today who can come near to King Hussein. Bravery, courage, compassion and humility are just some of the words that come to mind when we think of your King. Let us hope and pray that his life has not been in vain.

Nick Cleary and family
U.K.

AS A REGULAR visitor to Jordan since 1984, I was greatly saddened to learn the passing of His Majesty King Hussein. One could not help but be impressed by the genuine affection in which he was held by all Jordanians, and the great respect he commanded from world leaders of all political views.

He was an outstanding statesman. His departure will be a great loss to the Middle East, and to the world generally. We mourn his passing and wish His Majesty King Abdullah a long and illustrious reign.

Michael L. Bannigan
The University of Sydney
Australia

BRITISH EMBASSY ANNUAL NOTICE TO ALL BRITISH CITIZENS LIVING IN JORDAN

Have you registered with the British Embassy? If you are a British citizen and living in Jordan, please contact the British Embassy, Consular Section, in order to obtain a registration form.

If you have registered during 1998, please confirm your continuing presence in Jordan by re-registering as soon as possible. Please also notify Consular Section about any changes of address and/or telephone number. Such confirmation is in the interest of all British nationals in Jordan.

If names are not re-registered within three months the Embassy will be obliged to consider that those concerned have left the country. The names will be accordingly be deleted from the register.

If you are a citizen of a commonwealth country which does not have an Embassy or Consulate in Jordan, please ask the British Embassy, Consular Section, about registration formalities.

The British Embassy is located in Abdoun,
Damascus Street, near the Orthodox Club,
Telephone 5923100, Fax 5923759

The Post Office Box Number is 87, Amman 11118

The Consulate is open from Sunday to Thursday 08:30 to 12:00 hours.

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**Abdul Majeed Shoman, Khalid Shoman
and Abdel Hamid Shoman**

Extend to

His Majesty King Abdullah

the Hashemite Family, and the Jordanian People
their heartfelt condolences on the grievous loss of



**His Majesty
King Hussein Bin Talal**

May His Soul Rest In Peace

**The Chairman and Members
of the Arab Bank Board**

Extend their heartfelt
condolences and sympathy
to the Hashemite Family
and the Jordanian people
on the grievous loss of



**His Majesty
King Hussein Bin Talal**

May His Soul Rest In Peace

February 8, 1999

We extend our heartfelt
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His Majesty
King Hussein Bin Talal

May His Soul Rest In Peace

ARAB BANK



البنك العربي

PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE JORDAN HOTEL ASSOCIATION

WISH TO EXPRESS THEIR DEEPEST
SORROW AT THE PASSING OF

HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN

AND EXTEND THEIR DEEPEST
CONDOLENCES TO
THE HASHEMITE ROYAL FAMILY
AND ALL JORDANIANS.

HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN
WILL BE GREATLY MISSED.

MAY GOD REST HIS SOUL IN PEACE

The Board of Directors,
Administration Staff, and Students of the American
Community School in Amman, Jordan

would like to express their deep sorrow at the loss of

HIS MAJESTY
KING HUSSEIN BEN TALAL,

A GREAT AND RESPECTED MAN OF PEACE AND LEADERSHIP

May God grant the Royal Family and the Large Jordanian Family the
strength and courage to face the days ahead.

The Romanian Ladies' Club in Jordan
Join the Hashemite family and the Jordanian
people in mourning the demise of

His Majesty King Hussein

who they have come to respect and love dearly.
King Hussein will remain in our memory
as a man of great courage,
modesty and remarkable vision who dedicated
all his life to this land and its people.
May his soul rest in peace and may God give
us all the strength to honour his legacy of
compassion, love and peace.

INDIAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the
Indian community in Amman,
The Indian Cultural Association
extends its sincere sympathy to
the Royal Hashemite family
& to the people of Jordan on the loss of
His Majesty King Hussein Ben Talal
May His Soul Rest in Peace



Former officials pay tribute to King Hussein

(Continued from page 3)

respected at home and by the world," he said.

"He was my teacher and mentor. He is a very distinguished and special human being. I feel sad because this is an enormous loss; the loss of a leader, a mentor, and a friend both to myself and my family. We are consoled by our pride in him and we pray that His Majesty King Abdullah will follow in his father's footsteps."

Senator Taher Al Masri, who worked with the King to push forward Jordan's infant democracy when he

was prime minister for five months in 1991.

In that year, Jordan and other key Arab states agreed to attend the U.S.-brokered Middle East Peace Conference in Madrid that culminated in Jordan's 1994 peace treaty with Israel, one of the King's greatest triumphs during his 46 years.

"The King's death is not just a loss for Jordanians, but to everyone who knows the meaning of a king and a leader. He was the King of all Kings," added Masri, a former speaker of the Lower House of Parliament.

"As for the future, the King made sure that he had

built a country that will continue to survive and flourish. And I am sure that the new King will follow his steps."

Hamdi Taba'a, Chairman of the Jordan Businessmen's Association, a former trade minister and classmate of King Hussein, said he was deeply saddened, though Islam as a religion teaches its followers to accept mortality as an inevitable fate.

"As Muslims, we realise that life is only a short journey, but bidding farewell is very difficult, especially when it is someone as dear as the King," added Taba'a.

uncle of HRH Princess Alia Al Faisal, wife of the King's second son.

"He was not only a king, but a human being in the fullest sense of the word. He ruled the Jordan with determination and courage," he said.

"King Abdullah, who has vowed to follow the footsteps of his father, has charisma, dignity and is humble. I'm sure that many advisors of the late King respect him and will support him," he said.

"And Jordan will continue to be the country that the king has wanted it to be."

Leaders planning to attend King Hussein's funeral

(Continued from page 16)

Italy — President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro

Japan — Crown Prince Naruhito; Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi

Kuwait — Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Sa'd Al Abdullah Al Sabah

Lebanon — Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Michel Murr

Libya — Al Saudi Muammar Qadhafi

Luxembourg — Grand Duke Jean and Grand Duchess Josephine-Charlotte; Foreign Minister Jacques Poos

Malaysia — Acting Foreign Minister Amar Sulaiman

Morocco — Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed

Netherlands — Queen Beatrix; Prime Minister Wim Kok

Norway — King Harald; Foreign Minister Kaut Vollebæk

Oman — Sultan Qaboos

Pakistan — Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif; Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz

Palestinian National Authority — President Yasser Arafat

Poland — Foreign Minister Bronislaw Geremek

Qatar — Crown Prince Jassem Ben Hamad Al Thani

Russia — News agency reports say President Boris Yeltsin, recuperating from illness, will head delegation with Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov.

Saudi Arabia — Crown Prince Abdullah

South Africa — Minister of Home Affairs Mangosuthu Buthelezi

South Korea — Prime Minister Kim Jong Pil

Spain — King Juan Carlos, Queen Sofia, Prince Felipe and Princesses Elena and Cristina

Sweden — King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia; Foreign Minister, Anna Lindh

Syria — Vice President Abdul

Halim Khaddam or Prime Minister Mahmoud Zou'bi

Sudan — President Omar Al Bashir, leading a 10-man ministerial delegation

Switzerland — Defence Minister and Deputy President Adolf Ogi

Turkey — President Suleyman Demirel; Foreign Minister Ismail Cem

United Nations — Secretary General Kofi Annan

United States — President Bill Clinton and wife Hillary Rodham Clinton; former presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter and George Bush

Vatican — A senior official will represent Pope John Paul II

World Bank — President James Wolfensohn

Yemen — President Ali Abdullah Saleh

Officials offer condolences, declare allegiance to Throne

(Continued from page 3)

King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, has taken up the banner and carried the message to pursue the march on the same path which his father charted half a century ago.

Speaker of the Lower House Abdul Hadi Majali also issued a similar statement expressing feelings of sadness and grief for the loss of "a great leader, the late King Hussein, master of the house and builder of the nation."

Other senior officials also sent cables of condolences, among them are President of the Judicial Council and Court of Cassation Taher Hikmat, Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh, Director of the

General Intelligence Directorate Lt. General Samih Battikhi, Director of the Public Security Lt. General Nasouh Muhiedin and Director of Civil Defence Major General Thib Maani.

Arab diplomats express sympathy with Jordanians

(Continued from page 3)

sorrow for Jordan's loss of the King.

Thani expressed heartfelt condolences to the Hashemite family and to the Jordanian people over the King's death.

The Islamic Resistance

Movement (Hamas) also added their voice of grief to those of Arabs everywhere.

In a statement to the press, director of Hamas political bureau Khaled Misha'al said the King's death is a great loss for Jordan as well as for the Arab and Islamic nations.

"At this crucial stage through which Jordan is passing, I recall the King's political wisdom, his humanitarian attributes and stands, as well as the unique status he enjoyed at the national, regional and international levels," Misha'al said. "I felt this personally

when the King adopted a courageous stand towards my treatment, and secured the right medicine for me, during the failed assassination attempt against my life, and when he secured the release of Hamas leader Ahmad Yassin."

In the name of God the most Compassionate, the most Merciful:

With hearts full of pain and grief,

The Chairman and members of the Board, the General Manager,
Department Managers and all Trans Jordan for Communication
Services - **alo's** employees join the Arab and Islamic nations and the
whole world in mourning the passing of our beloved King,

our most precious and dearest

King Hussein Ben Talal

who departed to God's heavens after delivering his message, fulfilling his trust,
and bringing Jordan to the shores of safety.

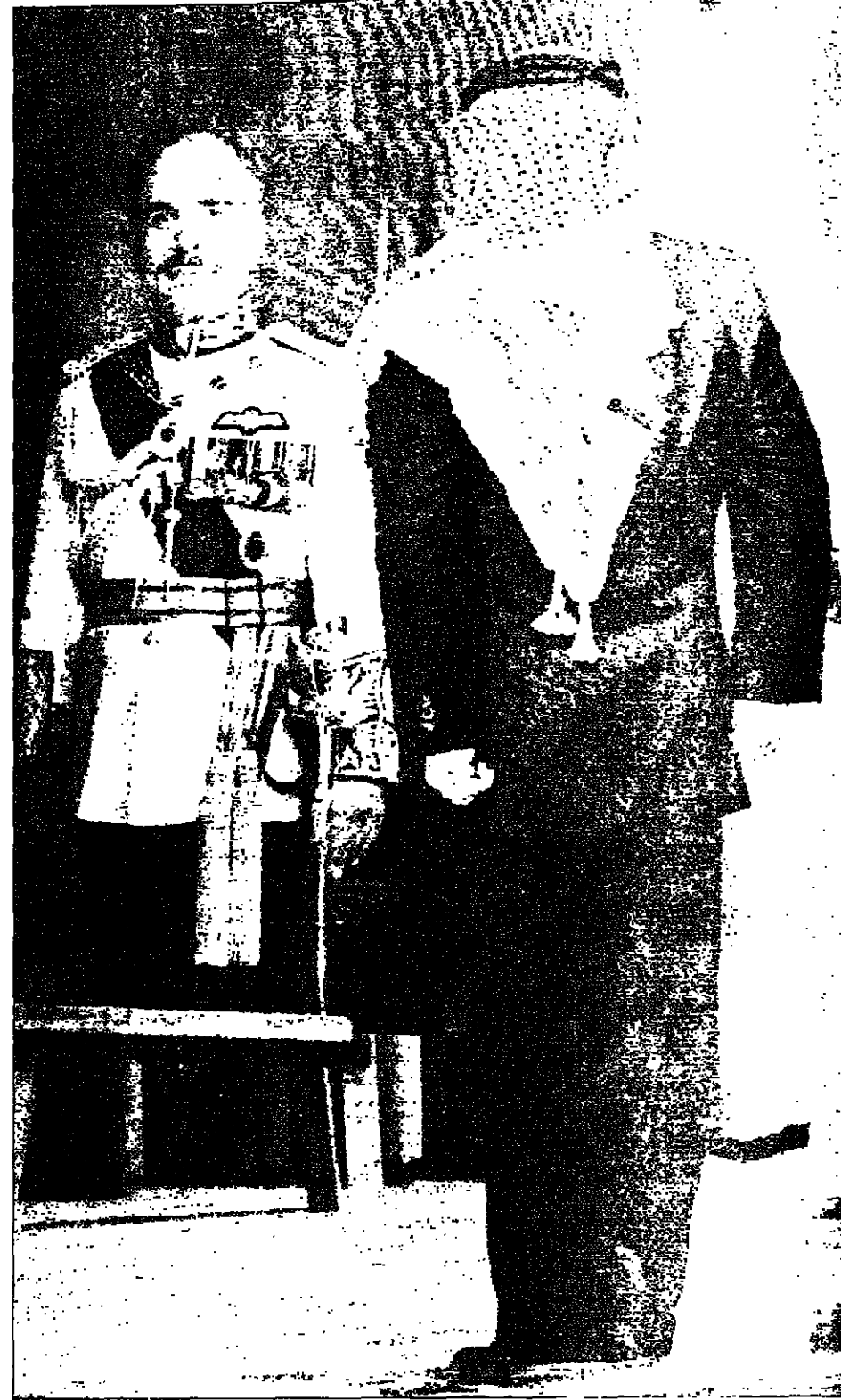
From our hearts, we pray for

His Majesty King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein

in his journey to fulfill the late King's journey. We pledge to God, the
most Merciful, that we will remain loyal soldiers to our Kingdom and King, asking
God to take within His mercy our beloved King Hussein.

May God Rest His Soul In Peace

King Abdullah assumes the Throne



His Majesty King Abdullah rests his right hand upon the Holy Koran as he is sworn in at Parliament as King of Jordan. King Abdullah stands before a portrait of King Hussein prior to taking the oath (AP photos)

Hussein knew peace and lived for it

Editor's note: The following editorial by former Jordan Times political editor P.V. Vivekanand appears today in the Gulf Today, where he is editor-in-chief.

THE DEATH of King Hussein on Sunday, two days after he returned home from the United States after a failed bone marrow operation, has plunged Jordan and the entire Arab World into grief and mourning. A pall of gloom envelops Amman and other capitals in the region. And it will be a long time before people and leaders in the Arab World can come to terms with the death of Hussein, who has been on the scene through the most turbulent times for 47 years.

Hussein was a leader in a unique mould. His charisma did not lie in populism, the sure-fire formula for the success of many leaders in this century. He related to his people in a different way: as their rightful leader, whose sole concern was their welfare. His concept of kingship is really based on the old notion of noblesse oblige, which demanded that those in power have undeniable obligations towards the people. Hussein lived up to the ideal in a very informal manner, and he was so successful that many failed to appreciate the idealism behind the manner he conducted himself with his people.

He was not also the military strategist who scored success in battles to stake his claim to power. Nor did he seek to transform the country with the blind zeal of a reformer. He was the man who had the power and the vision to push the country onto the superhighway of technological and economic

change. He did not because he understood the people and the society around him, and the pace of modernisation he adopted was one which enabled a traditional society to adapt to the new ways without the social trauma it entailed, and which is to be seen in many Third World countries. Jordan faces the problems and challenges of a developing country, but after years of gradual exposure, its people are in a position to cope with change with confidence.

King Hussein's Jordan is a complex polity, where democratic institutions have been growing, especially in the 1990s, and where the army continues to enjoy a privileged position. Jordan under King Hussein was neither a military-authoritarian state, nor fully democratised as the West tends to define democracy.

As in the economic, so in the political sphere, Jordan is in a transitional phase. Keeping in mind the bewildering conditions which led to the emergence of Jordan, King Hussein's contribution to its internal stability is miraculous. Hussein gently prepared his people to take on the tasks of modernity — in the political arena and in the economy. Those who are inclined to believe that Hussein survived as a king, but that he left the country behind, will have to revise their views.

King Hussein's role in Middle East politics was fascinating. He appeared to be a pro-Western king, and nationalists of different hues found that to be a drawback. But King Hussein's pro-Western image was the one drawn by the West, who needed a friend in the region. He spoke their language, understood their norms and notions. King Hussein talked to the Western leaders, and was the friend of the most prominent world leaders in the last half century. But he remained an

intensely nationalist Arab, who lived the ideal without indulging in rhetoric.

This is the most valuable example that Hussein has set for the Arabs: that it is not necessary to be virulently anti-West to prove your nationalist credentials. And that you could retain your traditional roots while being fully modern at the same time. There is no opposition between tradition and modernity if you are sincere and simple. This aspect of Hussein should be an inspiring example for everyone through Asia and Africa.

Another admirable quality he displayed as a political leader was his generosity towards rivals and adversaries. He never carried a grudge, and he was ready to deal with opponents in an open manner. That is why, despite the strong differences, and even opposition, towards him in the Arab states at different times, he maintained the traditional bonds of friendship. He was also the practical man who staked all for peace. He did everything which he could, at the risk of being unpopular, to achieve peace, to promote and preserve it. If peace eludes the Middle East, it is because of the treachery of right-wing Israeli politicians.

King Hussein knew what was right for the people in the region. He saw the simple truth in the manner of a true leader: nations have no option but to live in peace. Today, if Israelis want to honour the memory of King Hussein, then they have no choice but to implement the peace accords.

King Hussein's legacy rests on this single vision: peace in the Middle East. Here was a man who lived a life of struggle and faced strife throughout. He certainly knew the value of peace, and Jordanians and the rest of the Arab World should be proud that he belonged to them.

Foreign leaders, officials send cables of condolences

AMMAN (J.T.) — The foreign ministers of Britain, Germany, and Norway sent cables of condolences to Foreign Minister Abdullah Khattab in which they expressed their deep sorrow and regret for the passing of King Hussein.

They praised the late King as a visionary great leader who contributed to establishing peace in the Middle East. They also recalled the King's role in reaching the Wye River agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

Britain's Foreign Minister Robin Cook said: "The world will remember King Hussein as a courageous advocate for the causes of peace and moderation."

Israeli Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon expressed his con-

dolences in a message to His Majesty King Hussein Ben Talal, with his knowledge, wisdom, experience and outstanding qualities of statesmanship extended great services for long years to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and made invaluable contributions to the peace in the world and in our region as well as to cementing the eternal bonds of brotherhood and solidarity between Turkey and Jordan. His special place in our minds and hearts, as a great peace-maker and as a dear friend of Turkey will always be preserved," the letter said.

Chinese President Jiang Zemin sent a cable to King Abdullah expressing his condolences and shock at the passing away of King Hussein.

President Zemen described the late King as a great Arab leader and a prominent politician who devoted his life to serving his country and contributed to the Middle East peace process. Qatari leader Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani mourned the death of King Hussein. In a statement issued by the Emir court, the Qatari leadership stressed that their hearts are with Jordan at this difficult time, saying that Qatar stands by Jordan's Monarch, government and people.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin sent a cable of condolences to King Abdullah, in which he said King Hussein will enter history in his capacity as a visionary leader who contributed to shaping the

Middle East.

"The name of King Hussein, who laid the foundations of Jordanian-Palestinian relations, will stay forever in the annals of history," Yeltsin said in his cable.

Argentinian President Carlos Menem also sent a cable of condolences to King Abdullah, in which he expressed deep sorrow and grief at the loss of King Hussein. President Menem said the King's death is a great loss not only for the Jordanian people but for the whole world.

King Abdullah also received a cable of condolences from ruler of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasbi, who offered his condolences over King Hussein's death.

Schedule for funeral of King Hussein

AMMAN (J.T.) — The body of the late King Hussein Ben Talal will be laid to rest today alongside his father and grandfather at the Hashemite burial ground after an elaborate state funeral and procession through the streets of Amman.

Following are details of the funeral according to a statement from the Royal Court:

— 10:30 a.m. Mourners gather at Al Hussein Sports City and are transferred in buses to the Raghadan and Zahran Palaces, the main Royal compound near the centre of Amman.

— 11:45. Foreign dignitaries and mourners arrive at Al Nadwa Palace and the Small Palace, in the same Royal compound.

— 11:50. At Bab Al Salam Palace, King Hussein's former residence on the outskirts of the city, the Royal Princes carry the coffin draped in the Jordanian flag to the main entrance.

— 11:55. The coffin is passed to eight army

colonels, who carry it on their shoulders between two rows of honour guards to the hearse as military music is played.

— 12:00. The hearse, with a motorcycle escort, leaves for Raghadan Palace, passing through the Eighth, Seventh, Sixth, Fifth and Fourth Circles, the Prime Ministry bridge, Ministry of Interior Circle, and Istiqlal Street.

— 1:00. King Hussein's coffin arrives at Raghadan Palace.

Eight army officers carry the coffin inside the Palace between two rows of honour guards. The coffin is placed on a table in the Throne Hall facing the Holy City of Mecca.

King Abdullah pays his last respects and stands to the right of the coffin. He is joined by princes and senior officials.

— 1:45. Foreign dignitaries arrive at the Throne Hall and pay their last respects.

— 2:10. King Abdullah leads the Princes and foreign dignitaries out.

Military music is played.

— 2:20. The coffin is taken outside the main gate of Raghadan Palace on a gun carriage, passing several other Palaces in the Royal compound until it reaches the Royal Mosque.

King Abdullah and the mourners pray for the deceased King, after which the body is carried on the shoulders of eight officers towards the Royal Cemetery.

The guard of honour plays funeral music. Before the burial, two army officers fold the Jordanian flag and hand it to the chief of staff, who in turn gives it to King Abdullah.

A 15-gun salute will be fired and a lone bugler will play "The Last Post" as the late King's body, covered by a simple white shroud, is lowered in the ground.

The visiting world dignitaries then present their condolences to King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and the members of the Royal Family before leaving for Al Nadwa Palace.

Leaders planning to attend King Hussein's funeral

Agencies

Algeria — President Liamine Zeroual
Arab League — Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid
Austria — President Thomas Klestil
Bahrain — Emir Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifa; Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Ben Salman Al Khalifa
Belgium — King Albert II and Queen Paola
Britain — Prince Charles; Prime Minister Tony Blair; leader of the opposition Conservative Party William Hague; Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown
Canada — Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy
Cyprus — President Glafcos Clerides
Czech Republic — President Vaclav Havel
Denmark — Prince Henrik; Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen
Egypt — President Hosni Mubarak
France — President

Jacques Chirac and wife Bernadette
Germany — Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, his spokesman Uwe-Karsten Heye and his foreign policy expert, Michael Steiner
Greece — President Constantinos Stephanopoulos
India — Vice President Krishna Kant
Iraq — Vice President Taha Muheideen Ma'rouf and Deputy Foreign Minister Noori Al-Maliki Al Weiss, a former ambassador to Jordan
Ireland — President Mary McAleese; Marine Minister Michael Woods
Israel — President Ezer Weizman; Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu; former Prime Ministers Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Shamir; Leah Rabin, widow of assassinated Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin; Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon; opposition Labour party leader Ehud Barak; head of the Mossad secret service, Elfrim Halevy

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